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THE TIMES

WEEKEND MONEY
Pages 21-26

No 64,226 SATURDAY JANUARY 11 1992 45p

Hunt for IRA team and Volvo after blast 300 yards from Downing Street

Bombers breach Whitehall security

Brooke presses on with talks

BY RICHARD FORD AND SHEILA GUNN

THE IRA breached Whitehall security to strike at the heart of government for the second time in eleven months yesterday when a briefcase bomb exploded within 300 yards of 10 Downing Street.

The 5lb device exploded minutes after the prime minister had left Downing Street for an election strategy meeting at Conservative Central Office. The IRA said that the bombing was timed to coincide with that meeting and to force "the occupation" of Northern Ireland on to the political agenda.

But political leaders of all persuasions insisted that they would not be swayed by acts of terrorism, and Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, declared his determination to press ahead with talks on devolution for the province. John Major backed that initiative, saying: "That is the way to make progress, to talk, not to place bombs.

"The terrorists really should have learnt by now that neither in Belfast, nor in London, nor anywhere else in the United Kingdom, will they be able to bomb people out of their normal activities, their homes, their schools, or anything else."

Nobody was hurt in the blast in Whitehall Place during yesterday morning's rush-hour, but cars were damaged and windows shattered as debris scattered across hundreds of yards. Police were last night looking for a red G-registered Volvo 244 series car, which was seen parked in the bay where the bomb was placed shortly before the explosion at 9.10 am.

Two telephone warnings had been received before the explosion, and the bomb was spotted by two police sergeants. An explosives officer was called and he was moving away when the bomb went off, blowing another officer off his feet.

Anti-terrorist squad officers believe the present mainland campaign is being conducted by no more than half a dozen activists travelling around the country. Suspects include the man who organised the mortar attack on Downing Street last February and two men who escaped from Brixton prison last July. But police do not think yesterday's bombing was the work of the cell that has attacked shopping centres around England in the past few weeks.

Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of the anti-terrorist squad, said there was more than one gang operating here, with individuals travelling to bomb targets and then going away. He did not think the devices were being made on the mainland.

The Whitehall Place attack had been designed to cause maximum disruption to life in the capital and to win "kudos" for the IRA, Mr Churchill-Coleman said. "Obviously this device was placed while thousands of people were on their way through the area to work. The criminals took a real risk in doing this and the more people that keep their eyes and ears open the bigger the risk they take."

However, the fact that bombers had again broken through in such a sensitive area brought calls for tougher policing and tighter security. Ivor Stanbrook, chairman of the Conservative backbench Northern Ireland committee, said: "This outrage shows that the IRA can operate in London with impunity and that the government's response to terrorism is quite inadequate. If the IRA can get another bomb into Whitehall only months after firing a mortar shell into 10 Downing Street, then the so-called review of security which followed the last incident is a mockery." The Labour MP Alan Meale, who is a member of the home affairs com-

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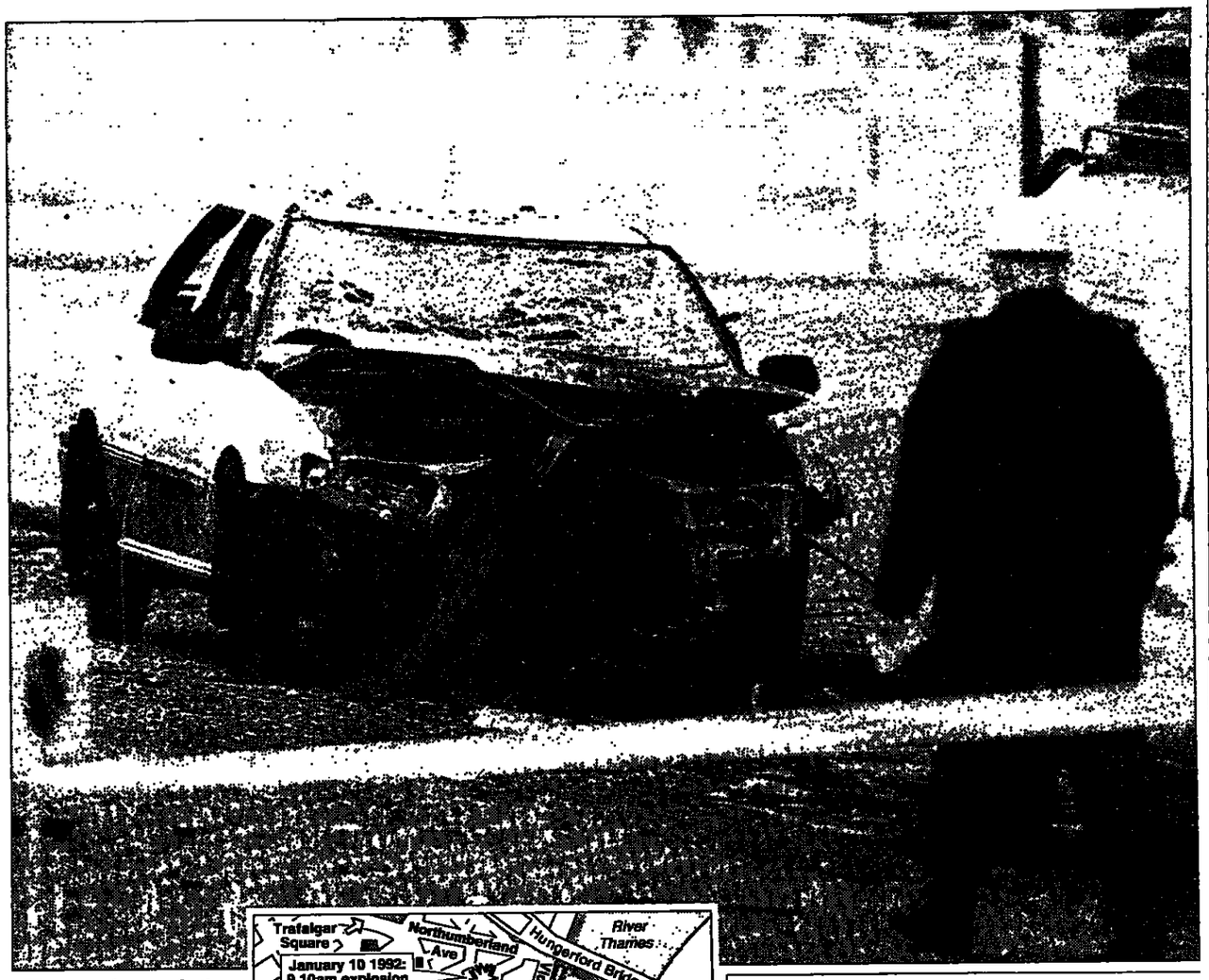
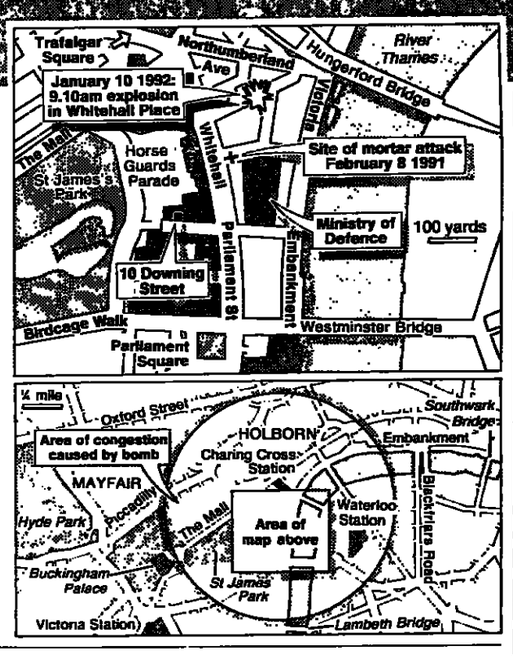
Guessing game, page 2
Defeating IRA, page 10



The wreckage of the burn-out Rover car



INSIDE

Easing out the rouble

Ukraine yesterday took a key step towards ending its use of the rouble. In a move that will increase tensions between Kiev and Moscow, it introduced pay for state employees in reusable coupons, to prepare the way for introduction of its own currency by the summer.

As a result, Russia could become a dumping ground for unwanted roubles, further pushing up inflation there..... Page 16

Military deal, page 8
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Experiment proved fatal

A psychologist on an alternative therapy course drowned in a swimming pool after experimenting to see how long he could hold his breath underwater.

John Michael Penney, 34, of Hampstead, north London, was at a transformational training group leadership course run by American Eric Lee Preisler at Grimstone Manor, west Devon, last December, when he died..... Page 3

Baby thrown into Thames

A man was jailed for nine years yesterday for throwing his five-month-old daughter to her death in the Thames. Leroy Wade dropped baby Cara 25ft into the river near Tower Bridge, and the central criminal court heard that he told police "the world is too wicked for my Cara"..... Page 5

Croatia poses EC doubts

A report on whether the EC should recognise four Yugoslav republics cites only Slovenia as posing no problems, raising doubts about whether Croatia will win recognition next week. The Belgian foreign minister, Mark Eyskens, however, said that EC states would recall ambassadors from Yugoslavia in recognition of the fact that the country no longer existed.... Page 9

INDEX

Lamont warned on panic budget

BY SHEILA GUNN AND JILL SHERMAN

NORMAN Lamont was warned by senior Conservatives last night to rule out panic measures as he draws up his budget strategy this weekend. Instead he was urged to do his part in steadying the Tories' election nerve.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer and his team, gathered at Chevening for the traditional pre-budget meeting, were sent a clear message by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Sir Leon Brittan, the EC commissioner for competition, not to listen to the "devaluation-mongers".

In addition, Westminster sources confirmed that John Major had accepted the case put by Chris Patten, the party chairman, against "quick fixes", such as a 1p cut in income tax. On the second day of talks on election strategy Mr Major is understood to have told cabinet colleagues that the greatest danger facing the party was panicking in the face of pressure from jittery MPs. The meeting also confirmed the two favourite polling dates among the cabinet to be April 9 and May 7.

As pressure on sterling continued, the foreign secretary said that those demanding devaluation, said to include Margaret Thatcher, were promoting the defeatist option. He pointed to seven cuts in interest rates in 1991, compared to a 1.5 per cent rise in German rates.

"Despite this progress there are voices to suggest that a realignment of the ERM — the current euphemism for devaluation — would be a shot in the arm for the UK economy. They are wrong," Mr Hurd said.

Sir Leon argued that devaluation could add two percentage points to interest rates.

Eye on the ballot, page 2
Diary, page 10
Leading article, page 11
Letters, page 11

Ratner resigns as chairman after £72m loss disclosed

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

Ratner: staying on as group's chief executive

GERALD RATNER stepped down yesterday as chairman of the jewellery group which bears his name. He has been replaced by James McAdam, former deputy chairman of Coats Viyella, the textile group. Mr Ratner is to stay on as chief executive.

Mr McAdam, aged 61, has the task of turning around the business, which has 30 per cent of the British jewellery market and 6 per cent of the American market. The group disclosed that it would make a loss of £72 million in the current financial year. It made pre-tax profits of £112 million last year.

Mr McAdam's appointment was welcomed by Ratners' main bankers yesterday. The group is expected to try to renegotiate the terms of its loans, but the new chairman is optimistic that refinancing will not be needed.

Ratners shareholders have seen the value of their shares plummet from 189p in April last year to 21p yesterday. They will receive no final dividend this year.

The group has cut the workforce by 10 per cent to 20,000 in the past year, but further redundancies are likely. Store closures and asset sales are also being explored.

Details, photograph, page 17

Alzheimer team may be saved

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

AN OFFER by a mystery benefactor may prevent the break-up of Britain's leading research team investigating the causes of Alzheimer's disease.

The team, based at St Mary's Hospital Medical School in Paddington, west London, was first in the world to identify a genetic cause of Alzheimer's disease. But the team seemed certain to be disbanded after three of its four leading members were offered jobs in the United

Continued on page 16, col 4

Letters, page 11

Bare-legged Algerian runs into trouble

From JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

HASSIBA Boulmerka, the world 1500 metres champion, has been denounced by Muslim fundamentalists in her native Algeria "for running with naked legs in front of thousands of men".

The attack by leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front — Algeria's Muslim fundamentalist movement, which is poised to take control of parliament in the second round of elections next week — is bound to deepen the misgivings of those Algerians who fear the rise of a hardline Islamic state. The front won a landslide victory in the first round of the elections on Boxing day.

The plight of Boulmerka, aged 23, has also underlined the fears of hundreds of thousands of Algerian women who have grown accustomed to western styles of dress and living since since Algeria won independence from France in 1962. On Thursday several thousand of them women demonstrated in Algiers against the fundamentalists who preach that women should be veiled from head to toe, with only face and hands visible.

Boulmerka yesterday denied reports that she planned to move to Italy rather than be banned from running with bare legs if the front won Thursday's poll. "Like 25 million other Algerians, I have no other country," she told the official Algerian Press Service. "I will continue to stay in Algeria, no matter who the rulers are."

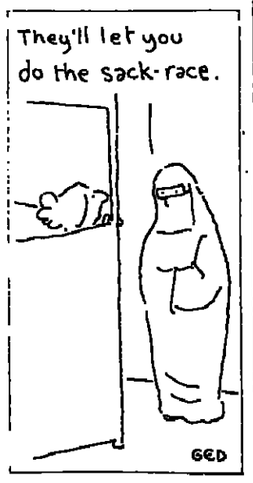
A relative in her home in the central city of Constantine last night said however that the champion might travel abroad before Algeria's first multi-party parliamentary elections. "She may go to Italy this week," said the relative in a telephone interview, asking not to be identified.

During the first round of the polls Algerian women wearing the latest French fashions queued at voting stations alongside women in *chadors*, even in the fundamentalists' Algiers stronghold, the teeming suburb of Bab El Oued. Women are an unknown factor in the crucial second round of the election, and comprise slightly more than half of the electorate of some 13 million people.

One student who returned to Algiers from university in Paris to vote against the fundamentalists said that her mother, an education officer, was one of only two women among 13 in her office who did not wear a veil. Three years ago all wore western clothes. "They asked my mother 'Don't you think you are too old to show your legs?'," she said.

Boulmerka became the first Algerian woman to capture a world title when she won the 1500 metres at the world athletics championships in Tokyo last summer, depriving Tatyana Dorovskikh,

Continued on page 16, col 8



TODAY IN THE TIMES

TOP NOTES

Giuseppe Sinopoli conducts the Philharmonia in one of a series of concerts to which readers are offered discounts of £10 a ticket **Saturday Review**

NOTEWORTHY

Gloria Steinem's latest book is on the importance of self-esteem **Review**

MOOR NOTES

Placido Domingo, the great *Otello*, celebrates 25 years of European appearances **Weekend Times**

FREE NOTES

Can you tell a country by its currency? On Monday *The Times* is encouraging the hobby of collecting banknotes by giving away money. See **Page 3** today

هكذا من الأصل

Two telephone warnings, a brown briefcase explodes and London is halted

After the blast: a cloud of dust rises from between cars parked in the cordoned-off Whitehall Place yesterday, quickly bringing much of central London to a standstill for hours

Bombing highlights IRA's guessing-game strategy

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

TACTICS

THE audacity of yesterday's bomb attack in Whitehall has highlighted the difficulties facing the police in their efforts to counter the IRA. By returning to the scene of last year's mortar attack on 10 Downing Street, the IRA's planners will have intended to provoke criticism of security arrangements at the heart of government and win worldwide publicity for their activities.

Anti-terrorist squad officers will want to establish whether IRA activists drove to the parking bay with the device and left it near one of the other parked vehicles, or whether they walked to the area before telephoning a warning to Channel 4 news and CBS.

After the attack 11 months ago on Downing Street, additional police patrols were introduced at Westminster and along Whitehall, together with additional parking restrictions. Some of those restrictions have been lifted, but last night Scotland Yard refused to discuss what parking curbs were operational in the area where the bomb exploded.

The IRA's strategy of constantly changing tactics is designed to wrong-foot the security forces and allow activists and sympathisers to avoid capture. The strategy was outlined last year when a member of the IRA said: "You change your tactics to keep them guessing. It all depends on logistics. If you stick to one tactic, you can become predictable and be tracked down. They can find out when you work to a pattern."

Last year's mortar attack on 10 Downing Street was followed days later by blasts at London mainline railway stations, killing one person and injuring 38, and by a bomb which blew out a section of railway track at St Albans, Hertfordshire, minutes before a crowded InterCity train was due to pass. The central element of the IRA's mainland campaign last year involved the planting of incendiary devices, which can cause maximum disruption with minimum risk to their activists. The campaign also combined attacks on political and military targets and on London's vulnerable rail network.

The pattern of recent attacks suggests bombers travelling widely to targets, after being recruited from sympathisers induced to act because there is little risk of arrest.

Although no one has been arrested for the recent attacks, Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad, insists that the fight against the IRA is being won. "Let us put it into perspective," he said yesterday. "What they are trying to do is to run a more effective campaign. We are stopping that. It is effective as far as we are concerned. We are not seeing a pattern. We will see a continuing change of tactics."

Ivor Stanbrook, chairman of the Tory backbench Northern Ireland committee, last night demanded tougher measures to protect Whitehall. "This outrage shows that the IRA can operate in London with impunity and that the government's response to terrorism is quite inadequate," he said.

"If the IRA can get another bomb into Whitehall only months after firing a mortar shell into 10 Downing Street, then the so-called review of security which followed the last incident is a mockery. The government must wake up to the fact that the manpower and resources devoted to fighting the IRA are quite inadequate."

Even so, every detective recognises that, in an open and free society, it is impossible to provide total security. The bomber and sniper always have the advantage.

Whitehall bombing, page 1
How to defeat IRA, page 10

Mortar expert strikes again

SUSPECTS

By Edward Gorman
Ireland Correspondent

THE IRA's bombing in Whitehall yesterday, its second in less than 12 months, may have been the work of the same man who coordinated the mortar attack on Downing Street last February.

Senior Irish anti-terrorist detectives expressed concern recently that the man, aged 34 from Co Waterford in southeast Ireland, may have been planning a second attack on what they described as a similar target.

The man, who has not been named because he has no terrorist convictions, was described in a report in Dublin earlier this week as a technician and a member of the IRA's "engineering unit" specialising in mortars.

He has had addresses in the Ballyfermot and South Circular Road areas of Dublin but has been on the run since last summer after being found with a car load of mortars by police in the Irish Midlands.

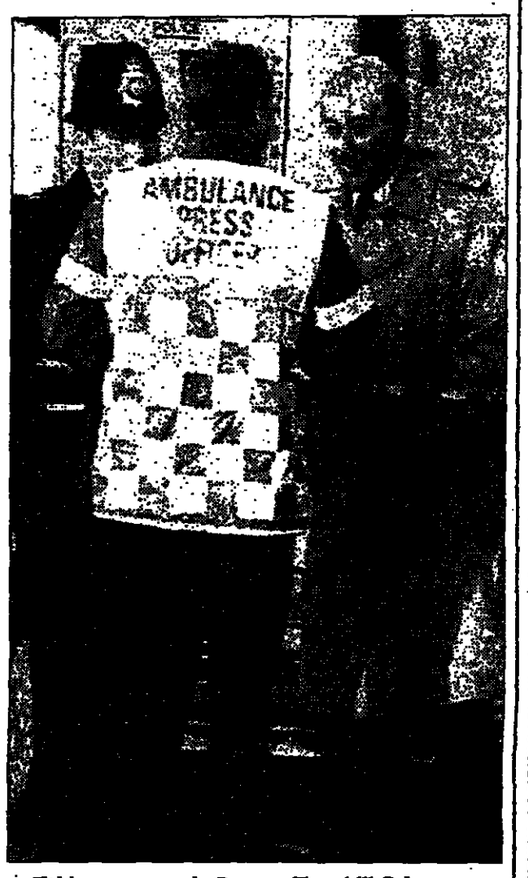
The man ran off when police approached. The mortars were found to be of a similar design to those deployed by the IRA in the Downing Street attack.

Other members of the active service unit thought to be behind recent IRA attacks in Britain who could have been involved yesterday include Pearse McAuley, aged 27, from Strabane, Nessan Quinlivan, aged 28 from Limerick, who escaped from Brixton prison, allegedly with the help of Staffordshire special branch officers, last July.

A fourth member of the group is John Conaty, aged 30, from Dublin, who was first named by police after he was linked by forensic evidence to an IRA bomb factory discovered in a flat in Clapham, south London, in December 1988.

Detectives in London and Dublin believe the unit in Britain also involves other known individuals together with some who may have no criminal history. Senior detectives are of the opinion that the IRA may be sending its members to Britain for short periods and that some may even have returned after spending time back in Ireland in between operations.

The IRA campaign in Britain is designed primarily to generate exaggerated publicity. A bomb the size of that deployed in Whitehall yesterday would barely merit a mention on national news bulletins if it had been planted in Northern Ireland.



Taking command: George Churchill-Coleman, right, talks with ambulance and police officers

Doorman saw car parked at scene

By Louise Hidalgo and Peter Victor

WITNESSES

A HOTEL doorman may hold the key to the identity of the IRA bombers who planted the Whitehall bomb. Mahmoud Ebrahim, of the Horse Guards Hotel, Whitehall Court, has told anti-terrorist officers that he saw a red G-registration Volvo at the scene shortly before the bomb went off.

The bomb was planted in a briefcase in an empty car park. Mr Ebrahim said that he saw the Volvo parked there half an hour earlier. Police believe it may have been used by the bombers.

Mr Ebrahim had a lucky escape when shrapnel punctured his top hat.

James Kennedy, a doorman at the nearby National Liberal Club, said: "There was a terrific explosion and a flash."

The windows on the first floor of the club were blown in, and the ground-floor windows were cracked by the blast. Graham Snell, secretary of the club, said: "We were given about 20 minutes' warning. This area has a heavy concentration of government buildings, so we have set procedures. The elevators were cleared."

Igor Gromyko, aged 37, grandson of the former Soviet foreign minister, Andrei Gromyko, witnessed the blast as he returned to the Horseguards Thistle Hotel from jogging. "I heard this very loud explosion," Mr Gromyko, a freelance journalist from Moscow, said. "I was about 80 metres away and there was a lot of dust and a lot of smoke. I have never seen anything like that before and I hope it's the first and last time."

Peter Frost, aged 37, a builder whom police ordered off scaffolding at Whitehall Court in the alert, heard the explosion, and said: "It was so loud, it hurt my ears."

Gromyko: visitor from Moscow saw explosion

Area is sealed for five hours

By Peter Victor

DISRUPTION

TRAFFIC in Parliament Square came to a standstill as police closed most of the roads around Whitehall after yesterday morning's bomb blast. Whitehall was sealed off minutes after a bomb warning was telephoned to the London office of CBS television at 8.38. Rush-hour traffic was redirected and the area remained cordoned off for five hours after the explosion.

Whitehall Place was closed at 8.50. At 9.07 Whitehall was closed off between Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square. Five minutes later Victoria Embankment was closed between Bridge Street and Northumberland Avenue, which was also closed. At 9.42 The Mall was shut from the Queen Victoria memorial. Birdcage Walk was closed.

"By 10.20 there was heavy congestion throughout the whole area," a spokesman for AA Roadwatch said. "Because of the road closures, diversionary routes were also very congested." The AA said that the area was severely congested from the time the police requested that it broadcast the road closures until an hour after Whitehall was reopened.

Although the Embankment was reopened just before 1pm, Northumberland Avenue remained closed and Trafalgar Square was still badly congested in the afternoon. Whitehall Place was still closed at 3pm yesterday.

Scotland Yard said: "The disruption extended to between half and three quarters of a mile around the area but the congestion was not as serious as it might have been."

Evidence grows for tobacco ads ban

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Services Correspondent

THE first convincing evidence that a total ban on tobacco advertising could cut smoking has been accepted by health department officials and is to be presented soon to ministers.

The department confirmed yesterday that an internal report by Clive Smee, chief economic adviser, has concluded that advertising bans in New Zealand, Norway and Canada have been effective in reducing smoking. Previously, ministers have rejected calls for a ban in Britain saying it would not work.

The strongest evidence has come from New Zealand where all tobacco advertising was banned from December, 1990. Sales, which had been falling slowly, moved sharply down in the first six months. The proportion of adults smoking also fell, from 27.5 to 25.1 per cent, after rising the year before following a 14 per cent increase in advertising. The New Zealand health department said the increase in smoking was "undoubtedly" caused by increased advertising.

David Pollock, director of Action on Smoking and Health, said that the report reflected a change of heart. "It is very significant. Ministers have always said they are not convinced by the evidence. The implication all along has been that if they were, they would support a ban."

Dogs put on a big show

Dogs outnumbered humans on the first day of Crufts yesterday — 11,000 visitors versus 19,000 canines — but the Kennel Club predicts a big upturn today and tomorrow. Last year's centenary attendance was 18,426 on the first day.

Yesterday's results: **Schipperke:** Ch Radosh Auld Cloode (Mrs E Archer, Ulverston, Cumbria). **Keeshond:** Ch Vanwall Delaware (Mrs D M Purdon, New Mills, Powys). **Japanese akita:** Overhills Cherokee Lite Fut (Mrs M J Purnell-Carpenter, Pensford, Bristol). **Chow-chow:** Ch Damascus Lad of Sharjeel (Mr and Mrs F and D B Harris, Northfield, Birmingham). **Schnauzer:** Ch Siddleys Dutch Burgemaster (Mrs S J Hatrell-Brown, Peterborough, Cambs). **Japanese spitz:** Alkoia Fujiyama (Mrs L Robson, Peterborough).

Cavalier King Charles spaniel: Homerbrent Jasper (Mrs K M Coaker, South Brent, Devon). **Italian greyhound:** Berinshill Sophia (Mr N Hunter, Roehampton, London). **Japanese chin:** Ch Sangria Eclipse (Messrs Bond and Farmer, Syvell, Northumb). **Lowchen:** Hesta Checkmate (Mr M Pullen, Ivybridge, South Devon). **Maltese:** Snow Goose Cort Magic (Mrs V Herriell, Woking, Surrey). **Bulldog:** Ch Willsmere Solid Silver (Mr and Mrs G Williams, Doncaster, S Yorks). **Dobermann:** Ch Olympic Star of Olbero (Mrs P Stamon, Welwyn Garden City, Herts). **German spitz (middle):** Jenkim Pearly Queen at Javarm (Mr and Mrs J Dyer, Longley, Glos).

Japanese shiba inu: Weishim Black Jack Is Vorraund (Mr and Mrs J Dunhill, Doncaster). **Poodle (miniature):** Ch Renwin Rapelle (Ms D Smith, Wilpshire, Lancs). **Poodle (standard):** Am Ch Dangin Donahue at Shalanka (Mrs A Penfold, Bridgwick, Sussex). **Tibetan terrier:** Gandaki Golden Puff of Dust at Bedivere (Ms R Inwood, Chatham, Kent). **French bulldog:** Ch Jolerob Xptorer (Mr and Mrs B Wright, Morecambe, Lancs). **Poodle (toy):** Ch Starwood Private Audition (Mr D Barker, Ashford, Kent).

Boston terrier: Brigwood Joliet (Mrs J Briggs, Halifax, West Yorks). **Canaan:** Kenzix Khamashes (Mrs & Mrs Cording, Brookhouse, Lancs). **Leonberger:** Leonberger Crusader From Atlantis at Manorguard (Mr M Peehan, Enfield, London). **Lhasa Apso:** Little Dolly Day Dream at Sealaw (Mrs G Corish, Preston, Lancs). **Shih-tzu:** Ch Hashanah Take Me To The Top (Mrs J Franks, West Bromwich, W Midlands). **Chihuahua (long):** Ch Hannen Teddy (Mrs A Hansen, Rochester, Kent). **Miniature pinscher:** Ch Torlica Talk of the Town at Tellidar (Mrs T Rees, Port Talbot, West Glam). **Papillon:** Ch Dazeview Yoko (Mrs A McKnight, Lincoln, Lincs). **Pekinese:** Yakee Got What It Takes (Mr M Easdon, Glasgow).

Video enquiry

Israeli police began an investigation yesterday into how a video tape of pathologists conducting an autopsy of the late Robert Maxwell was copied and sold to *Paris Match*, the French news magazine. The tape allegedly shows that doctors noted an enormous quantity of blood and several abrasions on the body. Police will begin questioning staff at Jerusalem's Abu Kabir institute of forensic medicine on Sunday.

Eat British

Britain could cut its £5.1 billion trade gap in food and drink by three fifths by producing more of the imported food itself, a conference was told yesterday. Sir Alistair Grant, chairman of the Safeway supermarket chain, which organised the meeting, afterwards announced the setting up of a council to promote home-produced food sales.

House price fall

House prices in the last three months of 1991 fell 3.5 per cent compared with the same period in 1990, the Halifax Building Society reported. The only rises were recorded in the North of England, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Prices in the South-East of England fell by 7.5 per cent and in Greater London by 7.5 per cent. A slight rise in prices nationally is expected at the end of the year.

Man died in pool after experiment to hold breath

By Lin Jenkins

A PSYCHOTHERAPIST was found naked and lifeless at the bottom of a swimming pool after experimenting to see how long he could hold his breath under water while on a course designed to increase self-awareness, an inquest was told yesterday.

John Michael Penney, aged 34, had earlier been sitting in a Jacuzzi wearing a snorkel and trying to discover for how long he could hold his breath. He then went to the pool and began to swim slowly, the inquest was told.

Brian Hall-Tomkin, coroner for north and west Devon, recorded a verdict of accidental death, but declined to comment on suggestions by Mr Penney's sister that he would have survived had a lifeguard been present. Mr Penney, of Hampstead, north London, died while on a transformational training group leadership course run by an American, Eric Lee Preisler, at Grimstone Manor, near Horrabridge, west Devon, last month.

Victoria Cotton, aged 27, a film producer, who was on the course, told the inquest, at Northam, Devon, that a group had gone for an early morning swim and Jacuzzi in the nude. "Although we had no costumes on, there was an agreement between us that there should be no relationships and therefore nudity was not important," she said.

She had seen Mr Penney swimming breast stroke. "Then, I went out of the Jacuzzi and saw him lying on the bottom of the pool, quite still," she said. "Someone jumped in and pulled him to the surface. We laid him on his back and he wasn't breathing. We tried to revive him, without success."

Another of the group, Anthony Coulson, aged 36, said in a statement that he had been in the Jacuzzi as Mr Penney experimented with a snorkel and holding his breath. "He was holding his breath under water for quite a long time and trying to use the snorkel," Mr Coulson said.

"He said he was doing this to try to find out how little he could breath using the snorkel. Then, he went into the swimming pool and lay on his back. Then, he was doing a very slow crawl, and I thought he was still experimenting with holding his breath."

Katherine Penney, Mr Penney's sister, asked about pool safety. "If someone was there who knew what they were doing, he would not have been dead today," she said.

Christopher Lakeman, a farmer in Grimstone Manor, which is let to a variety of courses, mainly New Age therapies and personal development groups, said that there were no lifeguards, but a nurse was on the premises and she had tried to revive Mr Penney.

PC Keith James, coroner's officer, said that a post-mortem examination showed that Mr Penney had drowned, but the reason for it was not clear.

£300,000 bagged at airport

By David Young

A SERIES of crimes in which a man stole goods and cash worth £300,000 from luggage at Heathrow Airport in 12 months ended when a police officer saw a man he knew to be penniless pushing a trolley laden with expensive bags and suitcases.

Geoffrey Senior, aged 21, who for a year posed as a passenger to take luggage from domestic flights as it was unloaded onto a baggage carousel, sold the proceeds for £150,000, Isleworth crown court, west London, was told yesterday. In one suitcase alone, Senior, who was homeless, found £7,000 in cash. He spent the money on food, clothing and hotels.

Senior, who pleaded guilty to eight specimen counts of theft between September 1990 and September last year, was remanded in custody for background reports, pending sentencing. He faces a prison sentence.

Michael Orsulik, for the prosecution, said: "His system was to travel to the airport by Tube, smartly dressed, and go to Terminal One and watch the domestic flight baggage-carousel from an upstairs balcony.

"If there was baggage going round on it and not many people about, he would go down and help himself to items of luggage which took his fancy."

Falkland Islands raise a sober glass to Thatcher Day

GUY DRAYTON

Falklands factor: Mrs Thatcher in her office yesterday, beside a picture from the 1982 conflict

By Robin Young

MARGARET Thatcher got a red, white and blue bouquet and a few friends in the Falkland Islands raised a glass in celebration. The first Margaret Thatcher Day, celebrated yesterday in London and, less noticeably, in the Falklands, was also taken as the occasion to announce officially that the former prime minister will be revisiting the islands in June for four days of celebrations, ten years after they were liberated from Argentinian occupation.

Mrs Thatcher, accompanied by her husband Denis, received the bouquet from representatives of the Falkland Islands government at the Thatcher Foundation offices in Chelsea, west London.

She told photographers that she was looking forward to her return to the islands. "It is a great honour to have been invited. We are both thoroughly looking forward going."

Mrs Thatcher said that she was flattered by the Falklands government's decision to name yesterday Margaret Thatcher Day. The date was chosen as the ninth anniversary of the day that she was awarded the freedom of the islands. Sukey Cameron, the Falklands government representative in London, said: "We wanted to put the day on calendars so children born after 1992 will remember who Mrs Thatcher was."

Pictures of the Falklands campaign still have pride of place on the walls of Mrs Thatcher's suite, prominent among them a picture in her personal office of the Marines landing at San Carlos Bay.

She said yesterday that the Falklands campaign would always live with her as the most traumatic period of her premiership, adding: "Every loss of life was a personal loss to me."

In the Falklands, however, the man who claimed to have originated the idea for Margaret Thatcher Day accused the islands' government of having ensured it would be a non-event. "Not only have they not declared January 10 a public holiday," Harold Rowlands, a member of the islands' executive council, said, "but they are not holding a public reception either".

Mr Rowlands, who gave Mrs Thatcher a kiss when she received the freedom of the islands on January 10, 1983, said that he would be "taking a holiday and inviting some friends around for a drink to celebrate Thatcher Day", but added that he thought it would otherwise be unmarked in the islands.

Mrs Thatcher remains popular in the colony, though. A peninsula in South Georgia was named after her in 1990 and a street in Port Stanley has been given her name.

Stunt club man jailed for fraud

THE founder of the Dangerous Sports Club was jailed for nine months yesterday for a series of frauds. David Kirke, aged 46, of Earl's Court, west London, spent almost £60,000 in five months on air travel, hotels and champagne, Isleworth crown court was told.

Jeremy Benson, for the prosecution, told an earlier hearing that £12,500 was obtained dishonestly and the rest came from the bank account of the Dangerous Sports Club, which was left with a £35,000 overdraft.

Kirke pleaded guilty in December to four charges of obtaining property and services by deception and one of evading a liability by deception. He asked for 52 similar offences to be taken into consideration.

Isobella Forshaw, for the defence, said yesterday that, when the offences were committed, Kirke was suffering from hypomania which resulted in a "lack of financial realism".

Lamont drafts budget with eye on ballot

Election strategy, rather than economic challenge, will dominate Mr Lamont's pre-budget talks this weekend. **Nicholas Wood** previews the Chevening summit

THE imminence of the election rather than long-term economic analysis will dominate Norman Lamont's annual pre-budget weekend summit at Chevening, the Inigo Jones Georgian mansion near Sevenoaks in Kent.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's budget speech, probably on Tuesday March 3 or 10, is certain to be as much a signpost to the Conservative manifesto and to post-election action as an announcement of immediate tax changes. The budget could be only a month before polling day and will, at maximum, be three months before parliament has to be dissolved.

That does not make Mr Lamont's task any easier. It is unlikely to be a cheerful couple of days at Chevening. The prime minister may rail against "dismal Jimmies" piling on the agony, but the electorate sees an economy still mired in recession and fears that 1992 will bring a further wave of company failures, job losses and home repossessions.

The Chevening meeting — in the past marked by charades and snooker — is attended by Treasury ministers and senior officials such as Sir Terence Burns, permanent secretary, and Professor Alan Budd, his chief economic adviser. They are considering an updated assessment by Treasury economists that, on present trends, overall growth may be little more than 1 per cent this year and, crucially, that most will be after the election.

There is little that Mr Lamont can do to change the short-term position. His challenge is to dispel gloom ahead of the election and to present measures to support a resumption of sustained growth without jeopardising the inflation gains of the past 18 months, frightening the markets and putting interest rates and sterling under renewed pressure. Mr Lamont does not want to go down as the recession Chancellor who lost the Tories the election. History, and Tory MPs, may be kinder to a steadfast figure who ignored calls for devaluation and steered his party towards election victory and solid, non-inflationary growth.

Within the existing borrowing forecasts he may have room for at most a £2 billion to £2.5 billion cut in taxes. A penny off the basic rate of tax, costing £1.95 billion, is the favoured option, not least because Labour has promised to reverse such a cut if it wins the election.

The alternative, and politically less inflammatory, route is to raise personal allowances by more than the usual indexation in line with inflation. That would benefit low-income groups the most and would be harder for Labour to attack. Personal allowances, now £3,295, are due to rise by about 4 per cent, last year's inflation rate, to £3,435, with parallel increases in other allowances. The cost of £1.06 billion in lost revenue is already assumed in the borrowing estimates. Increasing the main allowances by a further 10 per cent would cost £2.05 billion, or slightly more than the cost of cutting the basic rate by one penny.

Mr Lamont may be reluctant to find money by raising indirect taxes by more than the inflation rate ahead of the election. The Tories have traditionally preferred reducing income tax to quick acting measures such as cuts in value-added tax favoured by some economists: each one-point change in the rate costs £1.7 billion.

Mr Lamont will need both ingenuity and nerve if he is to deliver a budget which satisfies Tory MPs, financial markets and the country at large.

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Diary, page 10
Leading article, page 11

Weekend of note for collectors

MORE than 100 million Mozambique escudos will flood the money market this weekend without causing the slightest blip on the screens of London's foreign exchange dealers.

The 100 escudo notes will appear in the 1.4 million copies of *The Sunday Times Magazine* followed by a 25 gulden banknote from Surinam in every copy of *The Times* on Monday morning in a promotional offer which will introduce to many the hobby of banknote collecting.

The notes will mark the launch of the *Sunday Times International Currency Collection*. They can be mounted in a special album which will be given away in *The Sunday Times Magazine* on Sunday, January 26. Details of how to obtain a presentation wallet of further notes for the collection will be published the following week.

Before that, two more notes will be given away: a Peruvian 1,000 intis note in *The Sunday Times Magazine* on Sunday, January 19 and, the following Monday, a Brazilian 1,000 cruzeiro note in *The Times*.

Colin Narbeth, president of the International Banknote Society and author of *How to Collect Paper Money*, said: "The history of money is virtually the history of civilization and, since 95 per cent of all money today is made of paper, there is a growing interest in notes with their beautiful designs created by a handful of the world's best engravers."

Enquiry into patient's death

By Bill Frost

AN enquiry has been launched into the death of an elderly patient who fell off a trolley in a hospital emergency department where, it was disclosed yesterday, he had been left overnight because of a bed shortage.

The disclosure prompted a senior member of the British Medical Association to criticise a recommendation made two days ago by the Audit Commission that the health service should close 27,000 medical beds — one third of the total and equivalent to 50 hospitals. The commission wanted increased efficiency in treatment times and a redirection of resources to community care.

The accident is the latest of a series of incidents at King's College Hospital, south London, related to bed shortages. Last night John Chawner, chairman of the BMA's consultants committee, said: "If patients have to wait for a very long time because of a shortage of beds, it throws some doubt on the findings of the Auditor General, who told us we could get rid of 25 per cent of beds. If all these cases have happened because they were kept waiting, paying lip service to efficiency is not always the answer."

Mr Armfield, aged 75, of Nunhead, south London, hit his head after falling from the trolley at King's on December 17, within hours of having been admitted after suffering a stroke. Four days later he died from a brain haemorrhage.

David Bihari, a senior doctor at Guy's Hospital, central London, and director of the intensive care unit where Mr Armfield was treated after his fall from the trolley, criticised conditions at King's.

He said: "Either he collapsed at home and hit his head there and developed a brain haemorrhage, or it occurred as a result of falling off the trolley." He added: "It is scandalous that people fall off trolleys in the casualty department."

A spokesman for the hospital said: "We cannot have a nurse standing by every patient all the time. Mr Armfield was treated as an emergency and would have been given a bed as soon as one was available." The hospital said the results of an internal enquiry would not be made public until after the inquest on March 9.

Mr Armfield's son Paul, of Catford, south London, is considering suing the hospital. His father's death is the latest in a series of incidents resulting from bed shortages at King's. Last year it was claimed patients were kept on trolleys for an average of 20 hours in the emergency department because of bed closures. In 1990 the hospital lost 120 beds, including 18 on a casualty ward, in an attempt to clear debts.

Churchill's driver visits old haunts

By Alison Roberts

WINSTON Churchill's wartime American chauffeur returned to London yesterday for the first time in 50 years. His trip to visit old haunts coincides with the 50th anniversary of the arrival of American soldiers in England. As he entered the Stafford Hotel in St James's Place, his home from early 1942 to late 1943, he said: "Never could abide smoking myself, as soon as he got in the car I was enveloped in thick smoke."

Mr Correll, who now works in a broom factory in Hamburg, Pennsylvania, was a member of the 121 Car Company. His part in second world war history may have been small but it was invaluable.

Mr Correll followed Churchill to Casablanca in January 1943 and drove him to the Hotel Anfa, where the summit with Roosevelt took place. "Everything was extremely secretive, officially I was driving Mr P to the hotel to meet Admiral Q," he said.

While in London Mr Correll was also the driver for General Patton. Never one for back-seat banter, Patton's military strictness was well known and the atmosphere in the Packard grew tense as soon as he got in. Mr Correll said: "Unlike General Clark, Patton was never a soldier's man. It was straight there and back every time."

Churchill: and his famous cigar

The cars were used for less official business, too. Mr Correll said he would go for a drive with his English girl friend "Jeanie something", and, screwing up his face in an effort to remember, he added: "I think she lived in Ruislip Manor. If the rest of London is anything to go by, I bet that's changed a lot."

New age health service takes the pulse of public opinion

Health authorities are experimenting with new techniques to give people a greater say in the way they are cared for, **Jeremy Laurance** reports

THEY are handing out tenners in Buxton and Chesterfield to persuade people to help run the health service. In west Dorset, negotiations are under way between the health authority and a brewery to convert a disused public house to get young drinkers off the streets. In Kidderminster, local firms are to be invited to pledge their support for a no-smoking campaign in return for back-up from the local health promotion unit.

It is all part of a new effort to give local people a voice in shaping the health service. Concern about the teenage pregnancy rate has led the health authority in west Dorset to consider extending the opening hours of family planning clinics to allow schoolgirls to get to them. The provision of wheelchairs in Parkside, west London, has been improved in response to local demands.

Attitudes in the post-reform health service are changing fast. Authorities are switching focus from managing hospitals to serving populations. But to do that they have to discover what they need. Health authorities have always been required to consult the public, but most have regarded it as a chore. Now it is being seen as a key element in deciding how health funds should be spent.

Experiments with a wide range of techniques to involve local people in health decisions are under way. A selection of 19 of the best, being run in 14 districts, is published today as *Local Voices* by the health department. In north Derbyshire, one of the most innovative districts, a market research company was hired to recruit passers-by to join "focus groups" in 90-minute meetings to put views on the health service. They were paid £10 for their trouble. The authority hoped to discover more than it would at a the traditional public meeting — often poorly attended and dominated by pressure groups.

"One of the things we learnt was that people would be willing to travel at least as far as Birmingham, 70 miles away, to get quicker treatment," Andy Lazell, director of research, said.

A questionnaire on women's preferences in maternity care showed that their main concern was that births should not be speeded up for the convenience of the hospital.

In west Dorset, "community facilitators" are being appointed in 11 areas to identify local concerns and let people know what the health service can provide. "We found two issues particularly concerned people," Dr Frances Small, of the public health department, said. "They were worried about young people drinking on the streets so instead of just preaching the dangers of drinking we are trying to do something practical, helping the community to turn a disused pub into a drop-in centre.

"They were also worried about teenage pregnancies so we have set a target for reducing them. Speakers on family planning have been invited into local schools and we are looking at extending the opening hours of the clinics."

Flu cases triple but GPs dismiss talk of an epidemic

BY THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

CASES of flu in Britain were three times higher last week than in the final week of December but the spread of infection is still well below epidemic levels, the Royal College of General Practitioners said yesterday.

Figures compiled by the college from 69 practices in England and Wales suggest that most of Britain has escaped an epidemic on the scale seen recently in America, and which claimed President Bush among its victims.

Experts believe, however, that the risk of a big British epidemic could continue until March or April and recommend immunisation for those most at risk.

Demand for the flu vaccine has increased slightly in response to advice from the health department, which ordered 4.5 million vaccine doses for this winter, a 25 per cent increase on last winter, but large amounts remain on the shelves.

The college's figures show that the influenza rate for the week ending January 5 was 22 per 100,000 population, up from 7.5 the previous week, but not exceptional for this time of year. Cases of less serious flu-like illness, which is more like a heavy cold than influenza, rose from 54.1 to 90 per 100,000 during the same week.

The college considers an epidemic has arrived when the flu rate reaches 100 cases per 100,000.

Douglas Fleming, director of the college's Birmingham research unit, which produced the statistics, said yesterday: "The combined rate for all respiratory disease was 1,202 per 100,000 population. Thus 1.2 per cent of the population reported a respiratory illness to their doctor during that week, a similar rate to that reported one week before Christmas."

A computer simulation of the A-Beijing virus

Dr Fleming said that rates for all respiratory diseases were highest in the north of England, at about 1,400 per 100,000, compared with the Midlands and the South, with about 1,100. Trends over recent weeks showed increased rates among adults rather than children, he said.

During a typical British winter, between 2,500 and 8,000 flu-related deaths occur, mostly among the elderly, especially those in hospitals or nursing homes. During the winter of 1989/90, flu killed 26,000 people.

Current infection is due to strains of A-Beijing flu virus. Related strains have caused outbreaks in at least 27 American states. According to the World Health Organisation in Geneva yesterday, infection on a similar scale to that in Britain is taking place in France, Belgium and The Netherlands, but epidemics are not expected.

Vaccines are between 70 and 80 per cent effective in the most vulnerable groups, including those aged over 65 and patients with chronic respiratory and cardiovascular diseases or diabetes. Recent tests at the London Hospital Medical College, reported in *The Lancet* today, show that the vaccines are as effective against the related viral strains seen in America.

The Influenza Monitoring and Information Bureau, funded by the vaccine makers, believes that the college figures under-estimate the true number of cases because many people with flu do not contact their GP.

Richard Kenyon, a spokesman for the bureau, said yesterday that numbers were still average for the time of year. "I would agree that we are not looking at anything approaching epidemic level."

Father drowned baby in Thames

A MAN who killed his five-month-old daughter by throwing her into the Thames was jailed for nine years by the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Leroy Wade, aged 28, of Stoke Newington, northeast London, snatched her from her pram after beating her mother unconscious during an argument about access to the baby, the court was told.

Wade realised that the attack had lost him the chance of having custody of baby Cara, and he decided to drop her 25ft into the Thames near Tower Bridge, David Calvert-Smith, for the prosecution, said. The child drowned.

Wade, a trainee estate agent with convictions for violent attacks on a former girl friend, gave himself up. He denied murdering Cara but admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. He also admitted causing grievous bodily harm with intent to Marcia Lloyd in March last year. Mr Calvert-Smith said that when Wade's relationship with Ms Lloyd broke up he wrote letters threatening to kill her.

After receiving a summons for assault on Ms Lloyd's sister, Wade wrote to Ms Lloyd, making threats and adding that he could not live without Cara.

After another letter Ms Lloyd complained to police. Wade was arrested and charged with making threats to kill. He was bailed in January last year but the Crown prosecution service decided not to proceed. Wade later met Ms Lloyd in the street. He punched her unconscious and kicked her, breaking bones in her face.

Wade told police that he had put his daughter to sleep because "the world is too wicked for my Cara". Patrick O'Connor, for the defence, said that Wade had believed God had taken Cara to heaven and that he bore no responsibility for what happened.

ALAN WELLER

Boxed in: Jennie Eaves in her 9ft by 8ft bathroom, with spiral staircase linking it to the other rooms

£66,000 for multi-storey broom closet

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

FOR those in search of a deluxe broom cupboard, £66,000 can now buy no fewer than three cupboards stacked one on top of the other, linked by a spiral staircase.

Inside one of the three boxes, all roughly 9ft by 8ft, can be found Jennie Eaves; and no, she hasn't just drunk from a bottle saying 'Drink me'. Nor, at 5ft 7in, is she even particularly small. "You do have' to be very tidy though," Ms Eaves, who works for the Meat and Livestock Commission, says. And no expansive gestures: you might bring down the festoon blinds.

She bought her cupboards in Notting Hill Gate, west London, three years ago, for £58,000. "I wanted to live in central London rather than commute," she says. The flat was converted in the mid-Eighties from a box room and two bathrooms. But a new job in Milton Keynes means that she is now selling the flat. It would be perfect, she says, for a first-time buyer with no furniture: most of her fittings are built in to save space.

"I'll inevitably move to something a bit bigger, but I shall probably live in just a corner of it," she says. "I find I tend to that in hotel rooms at the moment."

She has grown accustomed to tucking up in a bedroom which feels like a ship's cabin, and to a life of fold-away tables, miniature fridges and televisions. There is, however, room for her only outsized extravangance: a jumbo pot of Marmite. Her guests (she can seat four at a time) seem to enjoy the ritual of sitting down in a carefully orchestrated sequence. She does not mind about the lack of central heating (there is no spare wall space) and she has become adept at negotiating the 3ft-wide spiral staircase between the floors.

There are bonuses too: cleaning is a quick flick of the duster, and there is little need for a vacuum cleaner when the carpet is the size of a pocket handkerchief.

Patient given fatal drink of detergent

A woman aged 77 died in an old people's home after being given a glass of corrosive detergent instead of mineral water, an inquest was told yesterday.

Marjorie Fitchett died after a cook at the Garden House residential home in Acocks Green, Birmingham, emptied the detergent from a drum into a mineral water bottle and tore its label off. The cook said that she intended to replace the label with a warning of the bottle's contents, but forgot.

Lawrence Budd, a care assistant, took the bottle and prepared Miss Fitchett's daily medication. She choked, and died later in hospital from bronchial pneumonia caused by the chemical.

Richard Whittington, the coroner, recorded a verdict of death through lack of care. "Once the bottle was left unlabelled, it was very likely that someone was going to come to some harm," he said.

Charity theft

Elizabeth Sokell, aged 30, of Tow Law, Co Durham, was put on probation for two years by Teesside crown court after admitting stealing £1,850 from a charity fund for her son Stuart, aged seven, a liver transplant patient.

Open all hours

Frank Smith, aged 75, and his wife, Elsie, aged 73, who have run a grocery store in Bristol for 50 years without a day off, have been named Britain's hardest-working shopkeepers by the National Shopkeeper's Association.

Bed attack

Two masked men armed with a hammer and knife tied up a man and his wife in their bedroom in Billericay, Essex, before stealing their video recorder, television set and other electrical goods and driving off in their car.

Late pay

Arthur Tulk, a former Japanese prisoner-of-war, aged 72, of Alton Pancras, Dorset, has been awarded an army pension and £3,505 in back pay, 46 years after being told that he was not eligible.

Lizard in food

The food companies Nestlé and General Mills were each fined £3,500 by Bristol magistrates after Michael Graham, of Stapleton, Bristol, reported finding a dead lizard in his muesli.

Transfer call

Thieves stole an entire telephone booth in Hayle, Cornwall, after they failed to break into its cash box.

Parties clash on steel closure

BY KERRY GILL

THE dispute over the closure of the Ravenscraig steel plant rumbled on yesterday with the Labour party and the Scottish National Party accusing each other of making political capital out of the end of steel production in Scotland.

The nationalists said Labour had given up the fight to save the works.

John Reid, Labour MP for Motherwell North, said that the attack was the "most disreputable and disgusting one I have witnessed for many years". Dr Reid, speaking before a nationalists' press conference which called on the 1,200 employees to fight the closure, said: "It is a cheap attempt to gain self-publicity by denigrating men and women who have not only given their lives to the steel industry but have fought for longer than any other workforce in Britain to retain the Scottish steel industry."

Iain Lawson, the SNP's steel spokesman, said that Labour was "the establishment" in Scotland, having 48 of the 72 Scottish MPs, yet had done nothing to fight for the plant's future.

Jim Sillars, SNP MP for Glasgow Govan, said: "The message the SNP brings to the people of Lanarkshire is 'fight'. Do not accept that there is no steel future for this country. Do not accept a future of empty promises while the dole queues lengthen and social misery increases."

Jet fighter without a niche to go ahead

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE £20 billion four-nation European Fighter Aircraft programme seems guaranteed to move into full production, in spite of the vanished Soviet threat and increasing pressure on Britain's defence budget. The RAF's requirement, drawn up during the cold war, is for 250 EFAs, costing at least £7 billion.

As one of the biggest defence projects, along with the Royal Navy's £10 billion Trident programme, EFA is likely to come under growing scrutiny. The first development aircraft will begin flight trials this summer and by the end of the year the four partners — Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain — are due to begin production.

British officials, despite earlier concerns, are now convinced that the Germans will go ahead with production, which, according to British Aerospace, one of the main companies involved, will help to keep down the cost of each aircraft to £20 million, which is 80 per cent of the cost of the Tornado F3, which the EFA will eventually replace. The cost has been kept down partly through the extensive use of carbon fibre materials and plastic. Only 15 per cent of the aircraft's fuselage and wings will be made of metal.

Germany is anxious not to be seen to be developing an aircraft with offensive potential, so its version of EFA will not have an air-to-surface role. Britain, on the other hand, wants a multi-role fighter capable of air defence and ground attack. EFA will be assuming the roles presently carried out by Jaguars and Phantoms. Phantoms are being phased out over the next two years. The new fighter will also complement, and eventually replace, the Tornado F3.

The RAF's confidence that EFA will survive the ending of the cold war has been boosted by the support shown for a new fighter by the Labour party in Britain and by the opposition SPD in Germany. A defence source claimed that if the programme were cancelled, the military aircraft industry "would decline to such an extent that Europe wouldn't be able to develop combat aircraft and we will have to rely on other people".

Alternatives to EFA — including the American F18, F15E and F22, now under development — have already been discounted. None was considered adequate for meeting the projected threats that the United Kingdom might face beyond the turn of the century. A senior RAF source said there was no longer a specific threat but EFA would be able to deal with any aggressor. "It's a very uncertain future and we must maintain the capability to meet any threat," he said.

Black student finds a fairy godmother

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

A TEACHER from Britain who fled Nazi Germany in the 1930s has promised to pay the university tuition fees of a black South African student whose ambition is to be a doctor.

Jacob Nhlapo, aged 18, from Soweto, outside Johannesburg, achieved matriculation results that placed him among the country's top 20 black students, gaining a distinction in English.

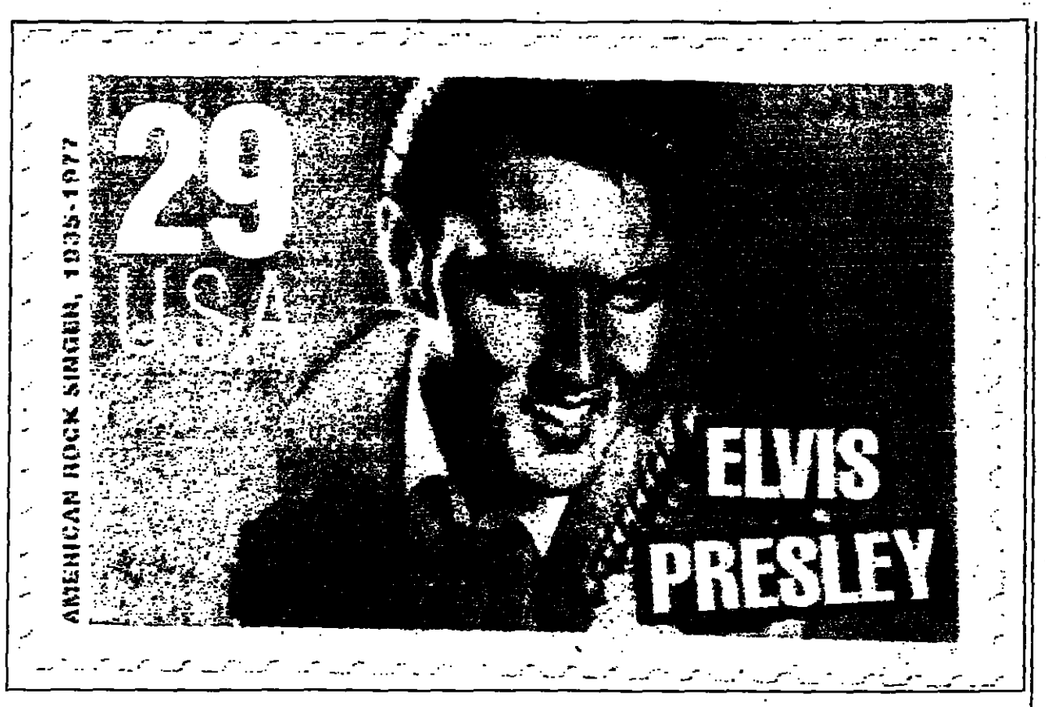
Jacob had not expected to receive a bursary. "The future does not hold anything for me academically," he said. "All I have to do is try to survive. I will celebrate the day that I put down my bags in a university dormitory and have a student card and a letter saying that my fees have been paid for a year."

Enter Marjorie Pethick, an widow, aged 87, who lives in Parktown North, a prosperous Johannesburg suburb. Without even meeting the boy, she said she would pay his university tuition fees: "My daughters say I'm mad. They said to me: 'Do you know how long a medical course lasts? It's at least six years.' But this country needs bright young people like him. I hope I'll be around in six years' time when he does qualify and I hope other people will come forward and pay for his accommodation and other expenses." Yesterday Jacob visited the black Medical University of South Africa near Pretoria, hoping to win a place and unaware of his potential benefactor.

Mrs Pethick, who comes from Tunbridge Wells, taught in Germany in the 1930s but fled the country after Hitler came to power. "He and I didn't get on," was all she would say yesterday about the episode.

More than 2,000 black pupils have this week been turned away from white schools in Johannesburg which had opted to go multiracial after votes by white parent-teacher associations. Margaret Greve, head of Orange Grove primary school, said: "We have had desperate parents coming in all week but we have just had to say sorry. We simply have no room." She added: "We are trying to reconsider cases where a brother, for example, was admitted and a sister left out because she did not do well in the entrance test."

The National Education Co-ordinating Committee a mainly black organisation, has urged the government to scrap the power of parent-teacher bodies to decide whether a school should admit blacks, and open them to all pupils irrespective of colour. It wants white schools that have been closed for lack of pupils to be reopened.



Rocking around the world: one of several renderings of the Elvis Presley postage stamp with which the US postal service is planning to depict the king of rock and roll in a series honouring American music. Two portraits will be chosen and fans will be able to vote by mail for the one they want used

Strawberries are cream of Arab progress

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA

WIMBLEDON and the strawberry season may seem an age away, but strawberry lovers need not wait to buy a punnet of their favourite fruit. Thanks to a remarkable greening programme in parts of the United Arab Emirates, they can now buy strawberries grown on land reclaimed from the desert.

Arabian strawberries picked at this time of year, when temperatures in the emirates hover around 70 degrees celsius, have been available in limited supply in Britain for a few years, but will soon be imported in greater quantities by Emirates, the Dubai-based airline, which says that a substantial consignment will arrive in the next fortnight.

"People are waking up to the fact that, as the strawberry season ends in Europe, it begins in the UAE, and growers here are expanding their market to take advantage of that," Ram Menen, general manager of Emirates Sky Cargo, said. A willing market is likely to be found in Britain, whose strawberry business is already worth about £70 million.

The journey of the strawberry from the deserts of the Gulf to the tea-rooms of Britain is as remarkable as the journey of the UAE from desert to blooming garden. A programme overseen by Sheikh Zayed ibn Sultan al-Nahayan, the president, has transformed the landscape and ecology in less than 20 years and has made possible the cultivation of crops such as mangoes, grapefruit, oranges, lemons and strawberries.

About 70 million trees are thought to have been planted as part of the campaign. With the building of desalination plants, the area of irrigated land in the UAE has grown from 18,000 hectares in 1978 to 280,000 hectares today, and agricultural production has risen nearly five-fold over the past decade.

PEOPLE

Health-care wife for Goldwater, aged 83

Former Senator Barry Goldwater, a widower for six years, will marry Susan Schaffer Wechsler, a health-care executive on February 9, his office announced. Goldwater is aged 83. Wechsler, aged 51, a divorced mother of four, is branch manager for Kimberly Quality Care in Phoenix, Arizona.

□

Following his World Cup soccer triumph, **Luciano Pavarotti**, the Italian tenor, is campaigning to raise funds to fight multiple sclerosis. Pavarotti, who reached No 1 in the British charts with the 1990 World Cup soccer theme tune *Nessun Dorma*, is releasing *O Sole Mio*. Profits will go to English soccer's campaign against the disease and to Action and Research for Multiple Sclerosis.

□

Poland's President **Lech Walesa** has given a new Fiat car to a nun whose driving helped him to keep secret appointments during martial law. **Sister Pauline**, now Mother Superior of the Order of Our Lady of Charity, "showed great reflexes and daredevil skills" to shake off the secret police, a statement from his office said.

□

The Composer **Andrew Lloyd Webber** has donated part of his 4,000-acre country estate near Watership Down to the local council to help put new life into the village. He wants the council at build low-cost homes at Ecchinswell, near Newbury, Berkshire, to encourage young local couples to stay put instead of moving into towns.

□

The Australian soap star **Jessica Muschamp**, who plays Sharon in *Neighbours*, braved the freezing waters of the North Sea to launch Cleveland's tourism drive at Saltburn beach. Jessica, who is playing Cinderella in panto at Billingham Forum, said: "It's a lovely sandy beach, just like back home, but it's a bit colder."

□

Kitty Kelley, whose best selling biographies have told tales of love, hate and infidelity among the rich and famous, is to marry **Dr Jonathan Zucker**, a Maryland allergy and immunology specialist in the spring. Ms Kelley, who alleged in *Nancy Reagan: the Unauthorized Biography* that the former first lady had an affair with **Frank Sinatra** at the White House, said she met her fiancé at a dinner party about a year ago.

Code to control phone sex lines

BY DAVID YOUNG

TELEPHONE subscribers will be able to block access to "adult entertainment" lines from next month, under rules announced yesterday. Other premium-rate telephone services, which can cost 48p a minute, are to be controlled more tightly to try to stop callers being tricked into running up large bills.

The rules state that the full cost of calls to advertisers offering jobs, or for competition lines, should be made clear.

Subscribers on digital exchanges will be able to ban access to adult entertainment lines, free of charge, by asking their local exchange to key in the appropriate codes for their number to the exchange computer. The request should be confirmed in writing.

The regulations will come into force on February 1 and are part of a tougher code of practice from the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Telephone Information Services. Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, its chairman, said: "The vast majority of premium services provide the public with useful information and a good choice of entertainment. There are, however, a small minority of services which are clearly unacceptable. The new measures will enable the committee to deal effectively with these services and with those who promote and provide them."

Tougher penalties will also come into force under the code, with the committee taking action to block access to premium-rate numbers for a specified period.

The other new rules say that:

□ No personal contact details are to be given out on telephone dating services;

□ Services raising funds for charity will have to state the contribution being made when a caller rings the premium-rate number; and

□ Services aimed at the young will be restricted to a maximum of seven-and-a-half minutes.

The committee said that those not on digital exchanges could still prevent their telephones being used for adult entertainment calls by using a simple locking device available in most hardware shops.

Peking sing along in Mao's bomb shelters

FROM REUTER IN PEKING

WITH nuclear war a fading prospect, Peking's planners have found a new use for their underground defence network — one of the wonders of the atomic age. Hotels, karaoke sing-a-long bars, table-tennis halls and body-building centres are mushrooming under the sidewalks of China's capital.

Dug largely by hand in the late 1960s and early 1970s on the orders of Mao Tse-tung, the maze beneath the city was designed to evacuate the city centre in case of bomb attack. Civil defence authorities don't want to discuss the network in detail since its exact size is a military secret. They do add, however, that most major new buildings in Peking include underground accesses to the tunnel system.

Officials hope the tunnels, an off-beat tourist attraction for almost a decade, will be a goldmine for local businesses. "All sorts of leisure activities have started up over the past several years because people have more money," said Song Zhensu, a spokesman for the city's Xuanwu district.

Other Chinese cities are also rapidly transforming their bomb shelters into business ventures. Shanghai has 150,000 people working underground. But no city has gone deeper than Peking in its drive to develop below-ground assets.

Chainsaw team hunt Pole tent

Oslo: Scientists with chainsaws hope to find the tent Roald Amundsen, the Norwegian explorer, left at the South Pole in 1911 as proof he was first to reach Antarctica's heart. Britain's Robert Falcon Scott was the last person to see the tent, five weeks after Amundsen's arrival.

Kristensen, who is leading 22 researchers on a climate study, believes that the tent is under 50ft of snow and can be found by radar and dug up with chainsaws. *(Reuter)*

Rest arrest

Jakarta: An Indonesian caught after he fell asleep while committing a burglary at a shop has been jailed for a year. Tatang, aged 25, was found the next morning by the shop owner. *(Reuter)*

Swing time

Epping: A civil servant who was left stripped and trapped in a swing as a prank and had to be cut free by firemen has been sent a £60 bill for a new one.

Altered states

Montreal: One in three Canadians believes that Canada will become part of the United States within 50 years, and two-thirds say their neighbour already exerts too much influence on them, according to a new poll. *(Reuter)*

Pelican scare

Jerusalem: The Israeli Air Force has launched a series of raids against thousands of migrating pelicans that have taken up residence in the country's fish farms. Planes fitted with loudspeakers have been emitting loud noises and explosions aimed at frightening the birds. *(AFP)*

Eager beavers

Denver: Wildlife experts called off a televised attempt to reduce the beaver population with the long-acting contraceptive Norplant when they found out their first specimen was male. *(AP)*

Jobless rise adds to president's worries

Press savages Bush over Tokyo trip

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush said yesterday that his trip to Japan would produce "clear, measurable" results for the American economy. Whether his effectiveness as an economic leader would be measurable before this year's election was less clear to worried White House staff as they contemplated a savage press assault and new figures showing the highest unemployment rates of the recession.

While Airforce One was still on its way home from the 12-day mission for "jobs, jobs and jobs", the labour department announced that unemployment in December had risen to 7.1 per cent from 6.9 per cent in November. At Andrews airforce base, Mr Bush expressed disappointment at the news, but offered confidence that his campaign to open Japanese markets would "translate into progress on jobs and economic growth in America".

Mr Bush predicted that 200,000 jobs would come from the Japanese agreement to double its import of American car parts. He said: "We made major accomplishments and we will go on from here." A look at the newspaper editorials provided little comfort that his countrymen shared that view. *The New York Times* called the trip a "fiasco". For *The Washington Post* it was "a flop".

The comment by Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, that America needed more "compassion" was highlighted by *The Wall Street Journal*. "Mr Bush's implicit message was that the Cold War is over but Japan won," the newspaper said.

In Washington there were immediate political recriminations by those who had always opposed the threatening protectionist tone set for the trip by Mr Bush's re-election team. Much of the fire was directed at Robert Mosbacher, the commerce secretary, who is to take up direction of the Bush-Quayle campaign shortly. There was particular anger at the decison to link the president to America's top car industry executives.

The leader of the anti-Japanese forces in Congress, Richard Gephardt, the House majority leader, called the Tokyo agreements "little more than pictures and press releases". There is growing pressure on Capitol Hill for tough trade sanctions if the $41 billion (£22 billion) deficit in trade between the two countries is not balanced in five years.

Mr Bush said he felt much better following his banquet collapse, adding: "I almost went running today, but then I thought, no, someone would say I was overdoing it."

The president is now, more than at any time since his election, a prisoner of public perception. The chief foreign policy issues on which his strength has been built are now out of his control and there is little effort even to make its seem otherwise.

A CBS/*New York Times* poll, released yesterday, showed that twice as many Americans disapprove his handling of the economy as approve it.

President Bush has tough decisions ahead about how directly to confront the protectionist rhetoric of Patrick Buchnanan, his Republican rival, who has been campaigning strongly this week for next month's critical New Hampshire primary election. His other rival, David Duke of Louisiana, threatened yesterday to launch a third party bid in November which could be much more dangerous to Mr Bush than his current primary challenge.

Some White House strategists claim the president's slide in the polls has been halted. His overall approval rating seems to have stuck at just below 50 per cent, and Mr Bush denied yesterday that his past ten days had constituted a "political bust".

● **Boise, Idaho:** A man was held in a mental hospital after calling Cable News Network on Wednesday claiming to be the president's doctor and reporting that Mr Bush had died in Tokyo, CNN said. Secret service agents have interviewed him. *(AP)*

Dollar soars, page 17

Budget cuts raise shuttle safety fear

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRIES supported by the American space shuttle programme are facing financial and job losses with the decision of Nasa to cut its shuttle budget by three per cent annually over the next five years.

The cut, part of growing pressure on the American space budget, means that £500 million less will be spent. That could lead to the loss of 5,000 of the 30,000 jobs directly linked with the shuttle programme. The main cuts will be in safety procedures and equipment checks which were increased after the Challenger explosion six years ago.

John Pike, director of space policy at the Federation of American Scientists, said he was "terrified" at the prospect of cuts as they could threaten flight safety. However, Robert Crippen, a former astronaut and incoming director of the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, said the cuts could be made "without compromising the hardware or assuring that it is safe and ready to fly".

The decision could have an even greater impact on the economy than officials realise. Most Americans, including politicians, believe that the economic benefits of the US space and shuttle programmes flow to the aerospace industry and a few states such as California, Texas and Florida. New research indicates that Nasa's spending has an impact across the country giving stimulus to the glass, paint, transport, warehousing, sanitary and hotel industries.

Roger Bezdek and Robert Wending, of the Management Information Services of Washington DC and the study's authors, say: "Many of the businesses involved are not even aware ... that their sales, profits and jobs are being generated by the space programme." The researchers, whose findings are published in the journal *Nature*, analysed Nasa's 1987 procurement spending of $8,600 million (£4.6 million). It generated industry sales of $17,800 million, created 209,000 private-sector jobs, $2,900 million in business profits and $5,600 million in federal, state and local government taxes.

The concern over the shuttle cuts contrasts with renewed optimism in the former Soviet Union. Nine republics, with the exception of Ukraine, signed a treaty agreeing to allocate "sufficient resources to ensure no diminution of their programme," said Art Dula yesterday, an official of the Space Commerce Corporation in Houston, Texas, the commercial arm of Russia's Glavcosmos space agency.

Mr Dula said they were also signs that the republics were coming close to generating overseas profits from space. Russia is at an advanced stage of selling communications satellite to a South American country and other contracts are also coming close to fruition.

However, it is not clear what impact Ukraine's decision will have.

Space saver: a shuttle launch in Florida

US ready to block loan aid for Israel

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

FURTHER strains have begun to appear in relations between America and Israel after the Bush administration's criticism of Yitzhak Shamir's government this week and indications that the US will not help subsidise additional funding for the country's flagging economy.

Although Israel's negotiators were preparing in Washington yesterday for talks with its traditional Arab foes, due to resume tomorrow and on Monday, their government was more concerned about its previously reliable relations with Washington.

On Monday night at the United Nations in New York, America voted for a resolution condemning Israel's decision to deport 12 Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Although the move was expected, Israel was angered by the harsh wording of the document which referred to "all the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem". The specific reference to Palestinian land seemed to indicate that Washington eventually foresees the return of all occupied land to the Arabs, a position utterly rejected by the Israeli leadership.

A further blow came yesterday when Israeli press reports suggested that Israel's request for $10 billion (£5.5 billion) in loan guarantees, to help meet the cost of absorbing Soviet immigrants over the next five years, was likely to be turned down when it is considered by Congress and the White House this month. Phil Gramm, a visiting Republican senator from Texas, said: "If it is clear that the guarantees will end up ... funding more settlements in the occupied territories, then the loan guarantees will not happen." He added: "I have never seen the president more adamant ... than he is adamant about the settlements in the occupied territories."

Zeev Schiff, the noted Israeli journalist, reported that America had completed a study of Israeli building in the territories which concluded that the housing stock had doubled in the past year. The last time Israel received American loan guarantees, it promised not to use them to increase the rate of construction in the territories. The governor of Israel's central bank said yesterday that without additional help the country might face deep cuts in government spending.

● **Beirut:** The Israeli airforce yesterday attacked Palestinian positions south of Beirut, killing at least 13 people. It was the most serious Israeli attack against Lebanon in 13 months. Witnesses said that at least 19 were wounded.

Sticking to his gun: an Israeli settler brandishing an M16 at Bet El in the West Bank yesterday, where peace activists said residents were behaving like sheriffs

UN team fails to trace cash for Kurds

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN SULAYMANIYAH

SENIOR United Nations officials say that they do not know what has happened to the funds from the Simple Truth appeal, organised by Jeffrey Archer, in aid of Kurds in Iraq.

Pierre François Pirlot, deputy chief of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees mission in Baghdad who is heading the relief effort in Sulaymaniyah province, said his organisation had received only $1.7 million (£900,000) of the £57 million raised in the appeal. UN workers say Mr Archer had a two-hour meeting with UNHCR representatives in Dahuk to demand some explanation.

"It's not the first contribution ever made," said one UN official who works in the Said Saddiq refugee camp, visited by the author-turned-fund-raiser this week. "Geneva [the UN agency's headquarters] must have an answer."

The assumption among the relief organisations run and staffed by Iraqi Kurds is that much of the money has been lost in the bureaucratic wash. "We have to respect Mr Archer. It's just a pity the way the money was spent," said Ari Jaff, who works for the Kurdish Shelter Reconstruction Organisation. However, it may transpire that a large part of the Simple Truth money could have been channelled into a different part of the United Nations operation in northern Iraq.

Japan's gangsters appeal to American spirit of enterprise

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

A Japanese gangster has threatened President Bush with a nationwide boycott of American cars unless he helps the *yakuza* — Japan's fabled mafia-like godfathers — to fight impending laws against money-laundering, gun-running and extortion.

The threat was made in a letter from Tadao Nawa delivered to the American embassy in Tokyo as Mr Bush left Japan after a four-day visit during which he pressed the country to open its markets wider to American cars and other goods. Mr Nawa said the *yakuza* bought 70 per cent of the 30,000 American cars sold every year in Japan. In return, the president must press Tokyo to repeal laws due to take effect in March that will impinge on their lucrative careers.

"We are asking for your support in a simple matter of justice and human rights," Mr Nawa wrote. "The reason we like American cars, you understand, is because the bodywork is thick and protects us from unwanted bullets."

Japan's 89,000 *yakuza* enjoy an image of wearing flashy foreign suits, Hawaiian shirts, and malicious sneers. They can be seen any day in Tokyo lolling in stretched Cadillacs and Lincolns, their jaws clamped around fat cigars. They have enjoyed cosy relations with the police and earn an estimated £4 billion a year from smuggling, drug trafficking, prostitution, and gambling. They are openly indignant that their businesses are to be criminalised.

Mr Bush's scant achievements this week in Tokyo should have taught Mr Nawa that, in the unlikely event of the president being willing to team up with Japan's underworld, he would make little progress on their behalf.

But Mr Nawa is probably aware that the legislation is intended merely to ward off rather than punish. Apparently under pressure from the ruling Liberal Democratic party, the police have proposed risible penalties for the new offences: one year in jail or a fine of less than £4,000.

As Mr Nawa threatens to shrink Japan's demand for American cars, a British businessman could be heading for a confrontation with the *yakuza* by seeking a share of the Japanese gambling market. Richard Manning, director of J. Manning, the tenth-largest British bookmaker, was in Tokyo yesterday to set up Japan's first foreign bookmaking organisation through a Japanese agent. Gambling in Japan is worth an estimated £22 billion a year. The trouble is that it is illegal unless restricted to horse, car, motor boat and bicycle racing.

Mr Manning says he will be kicking off his new business by offering odds on a sumo tournament beginning in Tokyo tomorrow. The Japanese will probably be invited to bet, illegally, on the American presidential elections, the Japanese upper-house election in July, and on all manner of other events. This will put him in competition with the gambling specialists of the underworld, who control huge networks of gambling dens in the alleys of Tokyo and other large cities.

The penalty for poaching business from rival gangs requires a gangster to lop off his own finger. Mr Manning is apparently undeterred by tales of the *yakuza's* strongarm tactics. He says he intends to recruit 20,000 to 30,000 Japanese members to his bookmaking operation.

Republics debate Black Sea fleet

Russia sees hope of military deal

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV AND MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

AFTER a week of bickering between Russia and Ukraine over control of the Black Sea fleet, Andrei Kosyrev, the Russian foreign minister, yesterday claimed that the former republics of the Soviet Union were moving towards agreement over the dispute concerning the former state armed forces.

Speaking before a meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States foreign ministers, Mr Kosyrev suggested that the four million strong Soviet army should be left under joint Commonwealth command for a transitional period. Meanwhile, Nato officials met their East European and Commonwealth counterparts in Brussels to discuss the new states' compliance with the 1990 Conventional Forces in Europe treaty.

Of specific concern to Nato will be the control and removal of tactical nuclear weapons from Ukrainian soil and the possibility of continued Russo-Ukrainian rivalry over the spoils of the Soviet army breaking zonal troop limits set out in the treaty. A statement issued after the talks at the alliance's headquarters said all participants had agreed to ratify and implement the treaty as soon as possible and that the former Soviet republics would reach agreement on how to divide up the equipment.

"The CFE treaty should enter into force without renegotiation and be fully implemented as soon as possible," the statement said. Another meeting is planned next month to discuss progress. Britain expressed serious concern yesterday about the implications of the dispute, and said it attached importance to a single control of nuclear weapons and the need for the republics to cooperate in a sensible way.

The Foreign Office also announced that as from yesterday the British consulate-general in Kiev had been upgraded to a full embassy. Michael Homes, the consul-general, had therefore become chargé d'affaires.

In Sevastopol, headquarters of the Black Sea fleet, Admiral Igor Kasatonov, who had refused to take an oath of allegance to Ukraine, yesterday held a meeting with senior commanders from the fleet. He told the officers that he "protected their stance" in rejecting Ukrainian demands for control of the fleet. The admiral claimed that he had won over Ukraine's leader, President Kravchuk, to support a gradual political solution to the issue, something that both sides have consistently argued for.

Anatoli Zlenko, Ukraine's foreign minister, who also attended yesterday's meeting in Moscow, said that an agreement could be found which would satisfy both Ukraine and Russia. However, Ukrainian leaders have said they would insist on control of non-strategic military forces within the republic.

Yesterday, staff at the central headquarters of railway troop units in Ukraine swore sole allegiance to the republic, and another regiment in central Ukraine is expected to declare its loyalty today.

Leading article, page 11

West fears arms impasse in Kiev

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AS ADMIRAL Igor Kasatonov, the Black Sea fleet commander, yesterday condemned as "absurd" proposals by President Kravchuk of Ukraine to take control of the warships, there was new concern in the West over the republic's apparent reluctance to hand over all its land-based tactical nuclear weapons to Russia.

According to the latest intelligence, there is now an alarming impasse between Ukraine and Russia over the transfer of tactical missiles to Russian control.

When Ukraine announced that it wished to be a non-nuclear state, the general staff in Moscow set about removing tactical weapons from Ukrainian soil. Western governments were reassured that all tactical systems would be placed in storage under central control in Russia.

However, it appears that Moscow did not request specific permission to begin the transfer, according to authoritative sources yesterday. Once the Ukrainian authorities became aware that the Russians were transferring the systems across the border, "almost surreptitiously", they put a stop to it.

Western governments have been told that there is now a sensitive stand-off between the two republics, with the Russians wary of shipping the nuclear systems out of Ukraine without approval from Kiev, even though Mr Kravchuk continues to say in public that he does not want to keep nuclear systems.

According to one Western military source, the Russian command responsible for bringing the tactical missiles out of Ukraine is now "very worried" that Mr Kravchuk will try to hang on to the missiles as a bargaining chip in his dispute with Russia over the Black Sea fleet. Ukraine has several thousand nuclear artillery shells and short-range missiles.

Earlier, Mr Kravchuk took control of the communications network linking former Soviet troops in Ukraine with the centre in Moscow. Vladimir Nikaronov, a spokesman for the central defence ministry in Moscow, said central command could only communicate with them by an unreliable telephone system.

However, Western sources emphasised that Mr Kravchuk could not sever Moscow's link with the units equipped with tactical nuclear weapons. The link to these units was via a separate satellite radio network.

Angry shoppers greet Chalker

BY ANATOL LIEVEN IN ST PETERSBURG AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

ANGRY shoppers in St Petersburg yesterday told Lynda Chalker, Britain's overseas development minister, that Western aid was a waste of effort because it was all stolen before it reached the shops of Russia. As she called at food shops, people queuing in sub-zero temperatures denounced the price reforms of President Yeltsin and the efforts of Anatoli Sobchak, the mayor.

Mrs Chalker is visiting St Petersburg in connection with a £20 million British aid programme intended to maintain meat and milk supplies to the city. The aid is in the form of seed grains for animals. Russia imports most of this from other republics of the former Soviet Union, where acute fodder shortages have raised the spectre of a mass slaughter of animals.

A separate European Community aid project, worth £140 million, will provide milk, beef and butter to Moscow and St Petersburg.

About 2,000 tonnes of British beef, awaiting delivery to Russia as part of the EC food aid, was pronounced acceptable yesterday by a group of Russian veterinary officials after they inspected a slaughterhouse in Petersfield, Hampshire, and a cold store in Gillingham, Kent.

The visit was arranged to allay Russian fears that the beef might be infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The meat cargo is now due to sent by sea from Hull next week.

Nikolay Zhiltsov, the agricultural attaché at the Russian embassy, said the Russian vets had been impressed by the high standards at the abattoir and were now much less worried than they had been. But he said they were still concerned about a possible threat to Russian cattle from BSE.

"There is no single case of BSE in Russia and they do not want it to get in, but we are keen to develop co-operation with your country," Mr Zhiltsov said.

During her tour, Mrs Chalker visited the third British ship to dock in St Petersburg under the programme, with 27,000 tonnes of seed grains. A total of 300,000 tonnes is expected to be shipped to Russia. Crown Agents officials, supervising the British aid, said that so far it had gone well, thanks to a personal intervention by Mr Sobchak, who ensured that railway wagons were provided promptly. A four-man British team supervises the delivery to prevent theft, although as Peter Bannister, the aid programme director, said, there is much less risk of theft from the British project than from the other European food deliveries, since seed grain is not attractive to the Russian crime syndicates.

Mr Sobchak had two meetings with Mrs Chalker yesterday to discuss future British aid possibilities. He has staked much of his own dwindling prestige on tangible results from his visits to the West in search of aid. Neither Mr Sobchak nor President Yeltsin could draw much comfort from the views of Russian shoppers who met Mrs Chalker yesterday.

At one of the shops visited by Mrs Chalker, the food shortage was aggravated by poor organisation. While a long line of people queued in the snow outside, a single shop assistant was filling customers' bottles with cooking oil, other assistants lounged at empty counters.

Mr Yeltsin is believed by Western analysts here to have made a bad tactical mistake by promising that things would get better within six to eight months. A middle-aged worker said yesterday: "If eight months from now things are no better, then as a decent man, Yeltsin should resign, as he has promised himself."

Crumbs of comfort: a smiling Russian, with a stack of bread, takes advantage of a well-stocked private bakery yesterday as state shops stay empty

De Klerk proposes role for Zulu king

Cape Town: President de Klerk yesterday recognised what he said was the unique position in South African affairs of King Goodwill Zwelithini of the Zulus, and said the king should be given a role in negotiations on a new constitution (Stephen Taylor writes).

Exclusion of the king from the first session of the talks held by the Convention for a Democratic South Africa last month led to a withdrawal in protest by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the leader of the Inkatha Freedom party.

Renamo attack

Maputo: Rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (Renamo) killed 50 people in an attack on the town of Macia, Radio Mozambique said. Twenty-five people were wounded, six seriously. Troops killed two guerrillas. *(AFP)*

Stasi claim

Cologne: The East German secret police were involved in the creation of the country's Social Democratic party, according to a parliamentary deputy. Angelika Barbe said that Ibrahim Boehme, its first leader, had collaborated with the Stasi. *(AFP)*

Cubans killed

Havana: Three Cuban policemen were shot dead and a fourth wounded when "counter-revolutionaries" seeking to escape tried to a steal a launch from a boatyard at Tarara, nine miles east of Havana, the interior ministry said. *(Reuter)*

Spanish ties

Madrid: Spain is to establish diplomatic relations with the former Soviet republics of Ukraine, Belorussia, Moldavia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. In December it recognised Russia as the successor to the Soviet Union.

Briton held

Bangkok: Peter Edward Heather, a Briton aged 26, was arrested in a flat here after Thai police found 1.3lb of top-grade heroin stuffed into condoms and hidden in his trousers. He was charged with possessing heroin with intent to sell. *(AFP)*

Clean bill

Peking: Special patrol teams of "upright policemen" are monitoring their colleagues, telling those found guilty of improper behaviour or sloppy appearance to button their jackets, straighten their caps, and be polite, the official *China Daily* reported. *(AP)*

Teresa rallies

La Jolla, California: Mother Teresa, is taking short walks and gaining strength while recovering from pneumonia. But a hospital spokesman said the Catholic nun, aged 81, was "fragile". Her doctors were worried about possible setbacks. *(AP)*

Tests on the air

Cricket enthusiasts have the chance to follow England's ball-by-ball progress in all Test matches and one-day internationals against New Zealand. BBC Radio 3 medium wave will have live coverage, starting at 9.25pm each night until 5.20am.

Patriarch prays for peace

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN TBILISI

AS BATTLES tore apart the historic centre of Tbilisi and divided Georgians, the country's most ancient and respected institution, with headquarters less than a mile from the conflict zone, kept a deafening silence.

Only on Tuesday this week, with the rebel forces firmly victorious, did Patriarch Ilya II, head of Georgia's 17-century-old church, speak out. Without seeking to allocate blame for the bloodletting, the head of the church called for reconstruction, reconciliation and prayers for peace.

"If we had made one small step, then one side or other in the conflict would have had claims against us," Father Georgi, a priest, said. Challenged as to whether the church can promote reconciliation, he said: "When people place themselves above God, then it becomes impossible to reconcile them."

Lithuania to scrap coupons scheme

BY ANATOL LIEVEN

LITHUANIA, the only former Soviet republic apart from Ukraine to have introduced a coupon system, is to abolish it on January 20, after less than a year in operation. It is not yet clear if it will be replaced by a new set of coupons or whether the government intends to take the plunge and reintroduce litas as the currency of independent Lithuania.

All Soviet republics now operate rationing systems for a variety of goods. The Estonian government on Thursday decided to extend rationing, which already exists for sugar, to bread, milk, butter and cheese. In Latvia, sugar and cigarettes are rationed. Many areas also demand evidence of local residence before certain goods are sold to customers.

The rationing systems are distinct from those involving coupons. The ration tickets limit the amount of goods that can be bought for money: they do not attempt, unlike the coupons, to substitute for the money itself. The Lithuanian coupons on the other hand are handed out to residents of the republic as part of wages and pensions.

The intention was to provide a check to inflation, give local people purchasing advantage over visitors, and pave the way for the reintroduction of an independent currency.

The Lithuanian coupons, which were promptly given the popular name of "Vadgnorki" after prime minister, Dr Gedyminas Vagnorius, are deliberately reminiscent of money, with attractive designs of birds and animals. In the early days of the system, a considerable number of people used their Vadgnorki to buy consumer items that they would not otherwise have been able to afford. The Vadgnorki system may also have contributed to creating the relatively greater availability of food in Lithuania.

Islam stokes the regional embers

Muslim belief is filling the ideological vacuum left in Central Asia and Eastern Europe, **Roger Boyes** reports

QUICKLY and quietly, Islamic politicians are moving into the Commonwealth of Independent States and the confusing whirl of the Balkans. That strategic shift contains dangers.

The communists erected a strict cordon sanitaire between the Muslims under their control and countries such as Iran for fear that the Islamic revolution would spread. Now the frontiers are porous and Muslim politicians are developing policies based on shared religious faith and oiled with aid.

Iran has recognised Azerbaijan, is negotiating with the leaders of all the former Soviet Central Asian republics and, encouraged by the increased political importance of the ethnic Turks in Bulgaria, has struck a deal with Sofia, trading a million tonnes of oil for Bulgarian cigarettes, machine tools and other machinery. Libyans, Iranians and Egyptians are visible in Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Bosnian Muslim leaders have been making frequent trips to Tripoli and Tehran with the aim of drumming up political, financial and perhaps military support in case of an assault by the Yugoslav army.

The drive into Eastern Europe and the Asian underbelly of the former Soviet Union may have a stabilising effect. That seems to apply to Turkish involvement since Ankara is regarded as a successful free-market role model by the impoverished Central Asians of Uzbekistan, Kirghizia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan. They share historical and linguistic roots with Turkey and about 60 million people in the former Soviet Union speak what is effectively a Turkish dialect.

When the Uzbek president, Islam Karimov, visited Ankara recently, he spoke Turkish. The Turks also moved swiftly to recognise Azerbaijan and there are regular flights between Ankara and Baku. Turkmenistan says that it is ready to share its rich oil, gas and mineral deposits in return for Turkish help in modernising the economy.

There is also much genuine cultural co-operation. Turkey is keen to develop Turkish schools in Bulgaria, and Iran and Libya are ready with cash to build mosques in Central Asia. The perils of these new relationships are only too apparent, however. First, the Central Asian republics do not have much to trade with the Muslim leaderships of Iran and the Middle East: there is no demand in Riyadh for oil and gas. Tadjikistan has been quick to realise this and is offering access to its rich deposits of uranium. Second, Iran and other countries are being sucked directly into regional conflicts, most notably in Azerbaijan.

Finally, the regional competition for influence between Turkey and Greece has been stirred up by the new alignments. Turkey, for example, is showing a strong interest in Albania, a predominantly Muslim country, and the Turkish chief of staff, General Dogan Dures, recently visited Tirana to discuss possible security links.

Doubts emerge on EC recognition of breakaway Croatia

BY TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

DOUBTS emerged last night on whether the European Community would recognise Yugoslavia's breakaway republic of Croatia next week. A report outlining whether the Twelve should recognise four Yugoslav republics cites only Slovenia as posing no problems, an EC source said yesterday.

However, Mark Eyskens, the Belgian foreign minister, said the Community was poised to recognise Slovenia and Croatia. He also said that the ministers agreed to recall their ambassadors from Yugoslavia in recognition of the fact that the country no longer existed.

Earlier, Community foreign ministers meeting in Brussels yesterday gave their provisional assent to Slovenia's independence, pending the report from a French constitutional expert. But the ministers were less positive

about Croatia's chances of recognition, because of continued fears for the safety and human rights of minorities within the republic. Both republics declared their independence from Yugoslavia in June.

The only EC country consistently to have pushed for the recognition of Croatia is Germany, which made clear its unilateral support for Zagreb before Christmas. Yesterday a spokesman for Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, predicted that both Slovenia and Croatia would be recognised by the EC on January 15, by when Robert Badinter, the former French justice minister, will have delivered his report on the independence claims of the four republics wanting separation from Belgrade: Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, the EC's facade of unity over recognising the republics seemed to be under fresh strain last night.

"It's each country for itself," said one EC diplomat after foreign ministers held an inconclusive debate over what to do by next Wednesday's self-imposed deadline for recognition. "Germany rode rough-shod over the others," said another official close to the talks. Herr Genscher's spokesman said Bonn had been justified in breaking ranks with the EC in its support for Croatia. "I leave it to you," he said. "Compare the situation before Christmas to now, and you will see that it is much better."

But Dutch sources said there were still substantial worries that Croatia may not respect the rights of Serb minorities living in the republic. Ministers have already agreed that any republic claiming independence must comply with international standards on human rights, the maintenance of borders and minorities. Many of these are enshrined in the Helsinki accords that lay down conditions of democracy, elections, and freedom of religion for internationally recognised states.

All ministers expressed their fears that neither Bosnia, sandwiched between warring Croatia and Serbia, nor Macedonia would be able to fulfil the conditions in the immediate future. Greece, which borders Macedonia, wants to delay any decision on its neighbour well after peace has returned to the troubled Balkans. The ministers also agreed to lift the economic sanctions imposed on Montenegro, which has been allied to Serbia in the civil war but has since distanced itself from President Milosevic.

The leadership of Krajina, the Serbian-controlled areas of Croatia, meanwhile expressed "shock at the arrogant and blackmailing letter" sent to them by President Milosevic earlier this week. In a statement issued from their capital, Knin, the ruling Serbian Democratic party accused President Milosevic of calling for a "coup d'état" in Krajina and of trying to "divide the Serbian nation".

The Krajina leadership has opposed the United Nations plan for peacekeeping forces for Yugoslavia on the ground that it envisages the disarmament of their local Serbian militias but not the Croatian army. A bitter dispute has now broken out between Knin and President Milosevic, who has accused Milan Babic, the Krajina president, of opposing the plan in order to hold on to power.

On Thursday Serbs in ethnically mixed Bosnia-Herzegovina declared they were founding their own republic. The announcement met with a resounding silence from the Serbian leadership indicating a possible attempt to distance itself from a move which it has not discouraged but which many fear could spark war in Bosnia.

Bonk gets better of Germans

Textbooks are missing a bad British joke, **Ian Murray** writes from Bonn

German children learning English are not being taught the difference between "bonk" and "plonk". They are also being misinformed about what MPs sit on in the Commons. These are just two complaints in a survey by the universities of Durham and Braunschweig of language textbooks in Germany.

Michael Byram, the project leader at Durham, said that the picture of Britain emerging from textbooks in Germany lacked accuracy, depth and breadth.

"What goes 99, plonk?" asks one textbook, seeking to introduce some British humour. (Answer: "A centipede with a wooden leg.") The Durham researchers say that the question should read: "What goes 99, *bonk*?"

Then there is the problem of the seats in the Commons. Not only does one textbook have MPs sitting on chairs rather than benches, it says they are covered in green leather because "green is the colour of the people". At Durham they say green can stand for the environment, Islam, Robin Hood, and Roman Catholic Ireland — but not for the people.

German ideas of public transport have also invaded the textbooks. The tram is widely used in most German cities, so students of one textbook are taught all about getting on a tram. The trouble is, as the Durham experts point out, that such information is useless as the tram is virtually extinct in Britain.

There is to be a reciprocal study in the second half of this year of how Germany is represented in British textbooks.

Pledge on Markov enquiry

FROM ROGER BOYES IN SOFIA

BULGARIA will continue searching for the murderers of Georgi Markov, the dissident who was murdered in London in 1978 with poison administered by umbrella in spite of the apparent suicide this week of a key witness.

The assurance, given yesterday by Yordan Sokolov, the interior minister, was prompted by the late Cold War Gothic adventures of the past week. One secret police general has shot himself — or been shot; another general went on trial having returned from an unexplained trip to Moscow; and a former general claimed on TV that he had bought a shredder to preserve documents not destroy them. Markov, a writer with a fine eye for political subterfuge, would have relished the scene.

Mr Sokolov said that he did not believe that the death of General Stoyan Savov was the end of the Markov affair. It does, however, make finding the truth harder. The popular assumption has been that the Bulgarians assassinated Markov with the help of the KGB. But to prove the Soviet connection is likely to require digging out the Markov file from secret police archives. Savov, a former deputy interior minister, may have had this file destroyed, or he may have given it to General Vladimir Todorov, the police chief who went to Moscow for "health reasons" in May, shortly before British police arrived in Sofia.

Markov: documents on case are needed

Bundle of joys: Anne Wibble, the Swedish finance minister, taking her first budget in a neat bundle to parliament yesterday in Stockholm. She told MPs that the centre-right government's fiscal policy was centred on promoting growth and development while breaking economic stagnation and re-establishing Sweden as a strong industrial nation. One of Ms Wibble's most controversial proposals is cutting off pay for the first two days of sickness. That would change Sweden from being the most generous in Europe for sickness benefits to one of the worst. *(AP)*

Tax police battle to outwit Poles

FROM PATRICIA KOZA IN WARSAW

POLAND launched a personal income tax on January 1 to improve its revenue base, but its "tax police" are battling Polish resourcefulness.

The new tax replaces five taxes from the communist era, including a wage tax and levies on capital gains, dividends and the sale of property. The finance ministry estimates that for the first six months of 1991 alone, income from taxes was 1.1 trillion zloties (£53 million) less than it should have been.

Poles considered it almost a gesture of independence to avoid paying taxes under the communist system that collapsed in 1989. Many have illegal bank accounts abroad, and traders routinely under-report their sales.

About 21 million Poles are subject to the income tax. Eighty per cent still work for state-owned enterprises that must withhold taxes from paychecks, and initially the income tax will be roughly the same as the old wage tax. Newspapers have called them the "weep and pay" sector.

But businessmen and workers are finding room to manoeuvre out of the clutches of some 6,000 "tax police" who will be monitoring their incomes. One millionaire, who owns several businesses including a fish farm, has parcelled them out to relatives. Another common ploy is to pay employees part of their wages under the table.

The financial police are not expected to be fully organised until next year, but their powers are wide-ranging. They can search apartments, collect testimonies and pay informers. Fines for tax avoidance have been increased almost tenfold.

US urged to end Hanoi trade ban

Hanoi: Lord Caithness, a minister of state at the Foreign Office, said it was time for America to normalise relations with Vietnam now that a peace settlement had been reached in Cambodia.

He said that Vo Van Kiet, the Vietnamese leader, told him that the US trade embargo was a problem. *(Reuter)*

Naval moves

Washington: The US Navy is planning to move about 2,500 personnel and their relatives from Subic Bay naval base in the Philippines to Guam, a Pentagon official said. The United States must move all personnel by the end of 1992. *(AFP)*

Arson sentence

Los Angeles: A former security guard, Michael John Huston, aged 41, was jailed for four years after pleading guilty to setting the 1990 fire that caused $25 million (£13.4 million) damage to film sets and other property at Universal Studios. *(AP)*

Gaullist dies

Paris: Louis Terrenoire, information minister under President de Gaulle in the early 1960s, died in Paris, aged 83. He edited *L'Aube*, a now defunct daily, before the war. Terrenoire, active in the resistance, was sent to a Nazi concentration camp. *(Reuter)*

Goat jailed

Nairobi: A Tanzanian court has jailed a goat for seven days for illegally grazing on a private farm, Radio Tanzania reported. The farmer found the goat eating his crops and took it to court, where a magistrate in Mtwara imposed the sentence. *(AFP)*

Budapest police begin purge of 40,000 illegal immigrants

FROM ERNEST BECK IN BUDAPEST

A GRIMY former police barracks on the outskirts of Budapest is the end of the line for hundreds of Asian, Arab and African nationals who had hoped to strike it rich and start a new life in Hungary.

But instead of earning quick cash, they wait in the camp surrounded by barbed wire and guards wielding truncheons until the authorities arrange charter flights to take them home — the first deportees in a tough new policy to rid Hungary of unwanted foreigners.

Janos Bodracska, police chief in Budapest, says that more than 40,000 foreigners without work or resident permits have slipped into Hungary in the past two years. Most end up in the capital, changing money at street corners or selling stolen cigarettes and fake Swiss watches. Once tolerated as a source of cheap products in the booming market economy, they are now blamed for everything from the rising crime rate to spreading Aids.

The police, claiming that Bulgarian car thieves and Syrian drug dealers were terrorising the city, picked up more than 1,000 illegal foreigners in a swoop last month. Yet it was not a money changer with a thick wad of dollars in his pocket who really prompted the crackdown, but two terrorist attacks in late December.

A bus carrying Soviet Jews to Budapest airport was blown up by a bomb a week after gunmen opened fire on the Turkish ambassador as he drove through Budapest. Colonel Bodracska said: "This confirmed our belief that illegal foreigners are the cause of a lot of trouble." In many ways, Hungary is a victim of its own generosity. Liberal immigration laws and a humanitarian "open borders" policy allowed East Germans to move through Hungary to the West, Croatians to flee from the Yugoslav civil war, and ethnic Hungarians to find a safe haven after leaving Romania.

However, the new immigrants, from places such as Hanoi, Lagos and Peking, and there is little sympathy for their plight in a society which is facing growing unemployment and homelessness.

So far, only a few hundred foreigners have been deported. But Colonel Bodracska has promised to clear the city of what he told a Budapest newspaper were disgraceful "colour spots".

هكذا من الأصل

Clifford Longley

Religious schools must uphold common values

Official reaction to demands for state-funded Muslim schools is to ignore them. Privately, government ministers express strong opposition; publicly, they refuse to go beyond empty platitudes. The silence appears to suggest that the official reasons are bad ones, such as racial or religious prejudice. Yet there are sound reasons, and Britain's million Muslims need to hear and come to terms with them.

British Islamic groups (such as the Muslim Institute which last weekend posed as a "Muslim Parliament") base their claim for state support for separate Muslim education on the examples offered by the Church of England and Roman Catholic school systems. If a Catholic and Anglican parents or children have the choice of denominational schools in which their own religious ethos is dominant, then should a Muslim parents or children be denied the same choice?

But the justification for state-aided denominational schooling does not rest simply on members of the denomination in question having a right. If that were the case, there could be no resistance to separate Muslim schools. The justification rests also on the consent of the majority — those who do not belong to that denomination — who are entitled to be satisfied that what is proposed is a contribution to the common good. The majority too has rights, even concerning the education of children from minority groups.

State aid for a Catholic or Church of England school system depends therefore on certain implicit conditions being met. Such a school must not be an institution serving merely partisan interests of a religious denomination. It must be fully integrated into the British education system, participating in the shaping of the system's philosophy and sharing its history. It must be regulated and inspected according to the same standards as other schools. Its teachers must be trained to the same standards as other teachers and according to the same conception of what education is about.

The majority is entitled (and would be wise) to refuse to endorse state funding unless it is to be used to support values which the majority shares, or at least esteems. While Anglican, Catholic and secular definitions of a civilised society are not identical, they overlap sufficiently for them to make common cause and to support each other. Even without state funding, society is entitled to regulate the education of children to ensure that certain minimum standards are met and basic common values are safeguarded. To this extent there is indeed a hidden "tyranny of the majority", which we should acknowledge.

If Muslims look at the present status of denominational schools in Britain, they will find no clear statement of public policy. The system has emerged in the traditional British way, as a series of solutions to practical problems, rather than as the application of first principles. The Anglican and Catholic systems — which together make up about a quarter of the total state effort in primary and secondary education in England and Wales — were both in place before the 1944 Education Act. They did not arrive overnight.

The Church of England had a national school system in being before the secular authorities started theirs, and the relationship between the two was always one of equality. The relationship with the Catholic schools system was not so smooth — "Rome on the rates" was the protest — but at each stage as new state subsidy arrangements were discussed and agreed, a primary influence on the legislators was the state of public opinion concerning the Roman Catholic Church. The public judged Catholicism not so unpalatable as to outweigh the social benefit of teaching children the moral virtues of the Christian religion, Catholic-style.

Claims for separate Muslim schooling, however, have not made any attempt to persuade society at large that the values a Muslim school exists to perpetrate are sufficiently close to those that the majority in Britain want to see upheld. The Muslims most keen on separate Muslim schools are those least enamoured of Western civilisation, who want the schools to be cultural ghettos in which they can protect their children from the influences of Western civilisation. Many heads and teachers in secondary schools with Muslim girls in the 15-18 age group engage in a constant battle of wits to prevent conservative Muslim parents withdrawing their daughters from school. It is precisely for such reasons that the demand for separate Muslim schools has to be refused — but tacitly, because it is not "politically correct" to say so.

The Whitehall bomb strengthens the case for tougher measures in Belfast, writes **Edward Gorman**

How to stop the IRA

Just two months ago, a very senior Army officer based in Northern Ireland — widely thought to be Sir John Wilsey, the General Officer Commanding — presented a depressingly realistic assessment of the IRA. In an attempt to justify his belief that internment was now the only answer to their continuing campaign, he described the IRA as "better equipped, better resourced, better led, bolder and more secure against our penetration than at any time before."

He went on: "They are an absolutely formidable enemy. The essential attributes of their leaders are better than ever before. Some of their operations are brilliant in terrorist terms."

He may have been exaggerating to make his point, but not much. In the past few weeks we have seen the IRA demonstrate its mastery of controlled acts of devastating violence both in Belfast and on the British mainland. Yesterday, for the second time in 12 months, it succeeded in detonating high explosives in Whitehall.

During the Christmas holiday, the IRA terrorised people up and down the country with a fire-bombing campaign which caused hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of damage and considerable disruption to the lives of millions. In Belfast, six huge bombs in the space of eight weeks have caused devastation reminiscent of the Blitz. These have come after a year that saw more than 300 incendiary attacks in the Province alone, together with the usual depressing litany of loyalist and Republican murders.

The government's response has been ineffectual. In the past two months it has reacted to sudden upsurges in violence by sending 500 extra troops to the Province on two separate occasions, and by temporarily putting hundreds of part-time members of the Ulster Defence Regiment on a full-time footing.

The Northern Ireland Office has made the most of these announcements, which have been dutifully reported by the media as concerted enhancements of security policy. In reality, however, such measures have never been in place for more than a few weeks, and have had a negligible operational impact. The extra soldiers have usually stayed for around 10 days to two weeks and then been flown home again at considerable expense.

Everyday peril in Ulster: an IRA firebomb

This is no way to deal with an enemy with which Britain is at war and which is likely to continue its campaign for another 20 years, not just a few weeks. The government knows it is up against not a bunch of evil, psychopathic criminals, as its propaganda has tried to suggest, but a highly disciplined and politically motivated guerrilla army.

This all serves to emphasise what Unionists have been saying for years, although these days few people at Westminster seem to listen to them any more: that security policy in Northern Ireland is nowhere near to matching the challenge posed by the IRA. Contrary to official wisdom, the IRA is not active on the mainland because it is so hampered in Northern Ireland that it has to look elsewhere for targets. More likely, operations in Britain are perceived by the IRA as a luxury, yielding massive returns in worldwide publicity. If the IRA were under real pressure in Northern Ireland, a campaign in Britain would be out of the question.

This is not an argument for the introduction of internment, which would be counterproductive, but for a greatly enhanced security presence in Northern Ireland, involving thousands more soldiers posted in on a permanent basis. This would allow for a greater intensity of patrolling throughout the Province all year round, for more undercover work and more intensive surveillance of potential targets. Ordinary people in Northern Ireland have already made clear that they would put up with the extra inconvenience this would cause.

It is scarcely credible, given the general's assessment of the IRA's current effectiveness, that he now has only 10,500 troops permanently at his disposal, roughly half the number available in 1972. It is remarkable, too, that Sir Hugh Annesley, the Chief Constable of the RUC, which is desperately short of manpower, had to wait months last year for Treasury approval for the recruitment of a mere 400 extra officers.

One imagines the main reason why the government is not prepared to step up its security effort in the Province is the cost. At present, security policy in Northern Ireland costs the taxpayer around £1 billion a year, equivalent to about half a penny on income tax. But many people in Britain, however jaundiced their view of Northern Ireland, would accept an increase of at least half as much again if more lives and property could be saved as a consequence. Millions are being wasted every year paying for repairs to damaged lives and damaged buildings, and on short-term military deployments. This money would be far better spent on permanent new measures.

Britain must face the fact that its presence in Northern Ireland is, for whatever reason, a direct cause of death and destruction. If the government is determined to stay and to honour the wishes of the majority in the Province that it should do so, it cannot carry on half-heartedly hoping the IRA will give up. It must be prepared to spend more and make the sacrifices that fighting a war on a disputed area of its sovereign territory requires.

Books do furnish a mind

Daniel Johnson wonders why we can no longer produce cheap books as well as the Victorians

It is a shameful admission for a new literary editor to make, but I actually prefer secondhand books to new ones. Why? My wife has no doubt about the reason: stinginess. That may well be part of it, though I like to think that taking pleasure in a bargain is not wholly discreditable; besides, she also complains of my extravagance. Limited means can be spent on books in more than one way, so I suppose that my weakness for used books rather than new ones must owe something to a sheer delight in unearthing the unexpectedly precious. Economy and serendipity are the two motive forces that explain the preponderance of past over present on my shelves.

Surely, though, the discoveries to be made among new writers or newly published works by established writers are no less enticing than those which old books yield? Indeed; and editing the books pages of a newspaper such as *The Times* would not be such adventure were this not so. But a book — any book, from the Bible to the airport bestseller — works its peculiar magic on the potential reader by the symbiosis between contents and physical form.

The relationship between the reader and the read is not a purely impersonal one, and the best publishers have always taken as much pride in the quality of their editing, printing, paper, binding and so forth as they have in their authors. Publishing is a mysterious process of quasi-transsubstantiation whereby ideas are made into commodities. The publisher's contribution is to give a visible, tangible form to a manuscript (or more likely a print-out) which does justice to both its intrinsic merit and its readers.

If too few people are spending their money on new books, money much in need for other things during a recession, then publishers must adapt or perish. The rise and fall of conglomerates (such as Maxwell's), ceaseless internal rationalisations, the emergence of new firms such as Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson's and Anthony Cheetham's, are all evidence of ferment within the industry. Publishers are adapting. But so far there have been fewer signs that their products are adapting too, either in price or in quality. Too little has been thought about what the serious reader of modest means really wants.

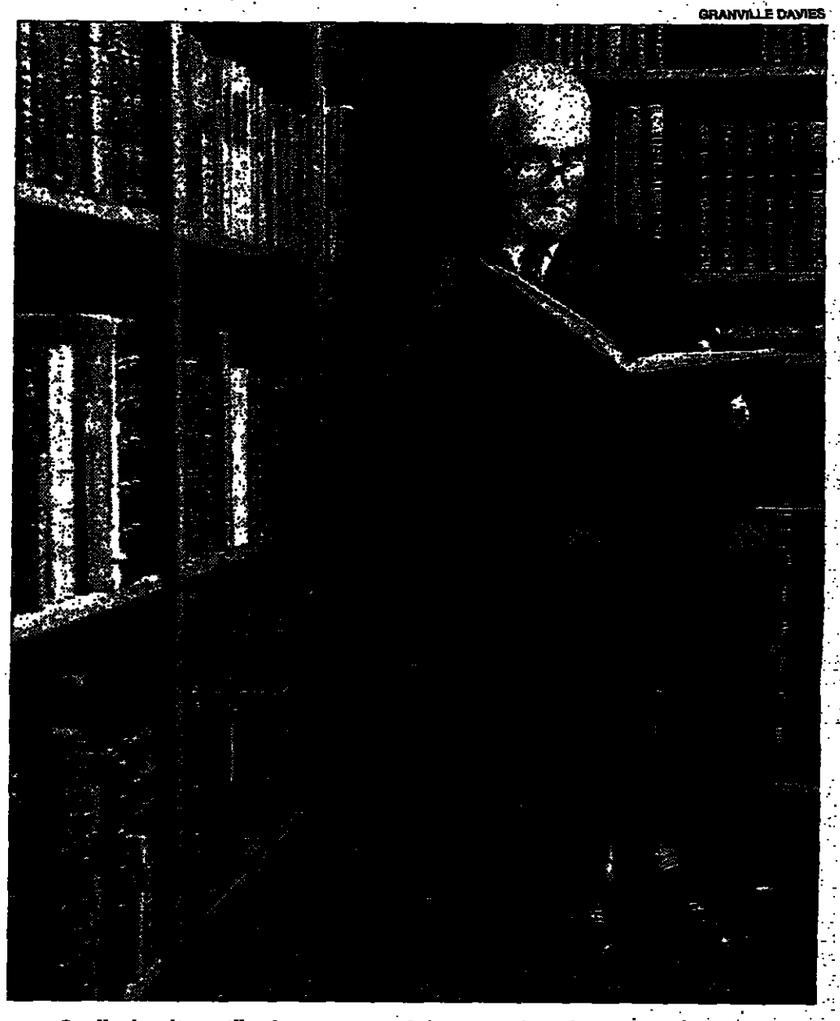
There are exceptions. The Everyman library, which Weidenfeld keeps in being as a paperback series, was relaunched in hardback last year by David Campbell. The volume for which I wrote an introduction, Mann's *Death in Venice and other stories*, costs £8.99; all are less than a tenner. The dust-jackets and cloth covers are elegant, and the volumes are well bound; only the small size of the print is open to criticism.

The original Everyman library was, of course, only one of several Victorian and later imprints: Bohn's library, Oxford's World Classics and others offered cheap but splendid cloth-bound, usually pocket-sized editions of canonical works of English literature, besides plenty of foreign and non-fictional classics. It could be done in the golden age of cheap books; evidently it still can be.

The paperback has, of course, usurped the place once held by these cheap hardbacks. But the noble didacticism of Allen Lane and other pioneers, who sought to bring good books to a readership still wider than in Victorian times, now threatens to be thwarted by the rising cost of the better paperbacks: a new Penguin Classic, for instance, is now nearer £10 than £5.

Naïvely, I had long assumed that there were economic reasons why no British publisher imitated the firm of Philipp Reclam, on whose tiny cream or yellow paperback volumes generations of Germans educated themselves for the equivalent of a few pence a volume. Now I learn that the American firm of Dover, whose paperbacks I have always admired, last year launched a series of books called Thrift Editions, which are as cheap as Reclam. They appear in this country under Constable's imprint, priced at 95p. The next batch is due in April, and includes Joyce's *Dubliners* (newly out of copyright), Lincoln's speeches and a boxed set of the complete poems of Shakespeare, Keats, Poe, Dickinson and Whitman for £4.75.

GRANVILLE DAVIES



Quality has its tactile pleasures: examining an antiquarian bookseller's stock

At the opposite end of the spectrum, the small publishers and private presses still produce splendid, though in many cases inevitably expensive books. Their problem is the retailers. Bookshops are now more likely than not to be owned by chains, which stock their shelves like supermarkets with fast sellers. The handful of giant publishing groups, with their big promotion budgets, naturally monopolise the space. They do not always use it well. Most public libraries — once good patrons of small and academic publishers — have given up the attempt to elevate their readers' tastes.

It is here that literary editors can make a difference, by drawing attention to the obscure. Before taking over from my distinguished predecessor Philip Howard last month, I was amused to read a fierce polemic in *The Bookseller*, directed against literary editors ("all, more or less, undistinguished"), by the immensely distinguished literary agent Giles Gordon. His diatribe did not convince me. But his question — what are literary editors for? — is a fair one.

At a party last week I discovered one answer: literary editors are targets for complaints from receivers of indifferent reviews, and especially their spouses. Pity the poor books editor: perilously suspended between the producers (authors, agents and publishers) and the consumers (readers of newspapers but not necessarily of books), never far from the beady eye of his or her betters on the paper (all of whom have opinions about books), while hungry reviewers suppose him or her to be permanently out to lunch because that is when they usually meet. But it is a marvellous role, nevertheless: chief supplier of the hermeneutic superglue to a fractious republic of letters.

This brings me back to the battle of the books, ancients and moderns, secondhand and new. Good books pages ought to be capable, now and then, of rising above the week's publications. They should link the values of past and present. Above all, the books pages of *The Times* should tell readers in which general direction the principal writers of the day are proposing to take them. That is my aim.

...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

Language is the mirror of events. Our language is having to adapt fast to reflect the tremendous changes in the old Soviet empire. Let us try to get things shipshape and Tbilisi fashion this time. We have always had trouble with our Russian. Tennyson was once entertaining a Russian nobleman at his house on the Isle of Wight. One morning the Russian set off on a biffing expedition, returning in the afternoon to announce proudly that he had shot two peasants. Tennyson politely corrected his guest's pronunciation. "You mean two pheasants," he said. "No," replied the Russian, two peasants. They were insolent, so I shot them."

Soviet, one of the most popular and terrible words in our lexicon for the past 70 years, has now passed into the overmatter of history, along with witenagemot and Star Chamber. Our Englishing of it was always dodgy. The Russian word is *sovet*, transliterating from the Cyrillic as well as one can. It means an elected council, and was applied to various revolutionary councils set up before the establishment of communist rule in 1917. It then became the politically correct word for the elected councils which operated at all levels of government. The Russians coined the adjective *sovietski*, which became the approved — indeed obligatory — epithet for everything to do with that second Russian empire.

The French translated *sovietski* as *soviétique* and the Germans as *sowjetisch*. English could have had sovietic or sovietish. With Anglo-Saxon disdain for complex parts of speech, we made soviet do additional duty as an adjective. So we had more than 70 years of Soviet javelin throwers, Soviet ballet dancers and Soviet spies, all examples of the New Soviet Man, (who looked suspiciously like the old Russian man with the build of a bear, a Caucasian body, and a Mongolian soul), busying themselves with Soviet psychiatry, Soviet literature, and Soviet foreign policy. So we hear radio programmes bidding a long goodbye to all that language by referring in successive sentences to the Soviet parliament and the Supreme Soviet — two names for the same thing, each illustrating a different use of the world. To call a person pro-Soviet was a grave accusation in the mouths of one set of cold warriors, while anti-Soviet was an even more heinous epithet on the other side.

The English travels of the word did not stop there. If soviet is an analogue of English or French, what is the Soviet analogue of Englishman or Frenchman? There has never been an agreed answer. But some bold spirits, particularly on the sports pages, have seen no reason why soviet should not return to the ranks of nouns, with yet another meaning. From time to time we have read of an individual footballer, athlete or chess player as a Soviet. At the time of the Karpov-Kasparov match for the world chess championship, our own dear chess correspondent referred to the strained relationship between Karpov and his "fellow-Soviet". (Kasparov is, of course, not a Russian, and how he will be described under the new dispensation is still in the lap of usage.) Churchill wrote, in *The End of the Beginning*: "The Soviets had to repel the terrific onslaught of Germany." But here he was writing about not individuals but a political collective. Not Churchill but Ike seems to have been originally responsible for using Soviet to mean a citizen of the USSR. Here is a newspaper cut from 1959: "President Eisenhower, seeking one word to cover citizens of the Soviet Union, has braved the criticism of purists and adopted the term Soviets."

Can we do better with our language for the new regimes that are replacing the Soviets? I don't suppose so. The original Russian word we translate as Commonwealth (of Independent States) suggests a looser link, more like a society or fraternity. In English the name Commonwealth is heavily loaded with Oliver Cromwell and Roundheads. In American, commonwealth forms part of the official titles of Kentucky, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Considerable confusion lies ahead if we start talking about the (Russian) commonwealth. Confusion is the element through which language ploughs, like an icebreaker in freezing fog.

DIARY

From Fido to Rimbaud

ONE of the highlights of the annual weekend at Chevening, the Chancellor's residence, is the evening of entertainment organised by the host and his impresario in these matters, the Treasury permanent secretary, Sir Terence Burns. Last night, presumably reflecting the state of the economy, Norman Lamont presided over a sombre and serious affair, described by his aides as "an evening of classical entertainment reflecting the Chancellor's catholic tastes in music and literature". Lamont's sedate evening included chamber music and poetry, much of it with a French flavour, Debussy and Rimbaud being particular favourites.

The lofty tone was in contrast to some of the high-spirited evenings enjoyed at Chevening during the boom years, after Sir Geoffrey Howe started the tradition of letting the Treasury's hair down in the early 1980s at the annual January gatherings at the country house in Kent. Sir Geoffrey enjoyed enlivening his gatherings with games of charades. On one famous occasion in 1985, a breathless Treasury official rushed into the drawing room to announce that the pound was moving close to parity with the dollar. The official stood aghast as he was greeted by the sight of Peter Rees, then Treasury minister of state, on all fours barking like a dog.

Nigel Lawson used to amuse himself by asking his ministers and officials to sing madrigals and roundelays — not always with the traditional words, by all accounts. John Major, predictably, turned to the world of sport for amusement. His year as Chancellor saw great use made of Chevening's snooker table with a tournament between ministers and mandarins, won by Sir Terence Burns and his predecessor as permanent secretary, Sir Peter Middleton.

● *Jonathan Miller is at it again. "If you were ever to say as much about critics as they have said about me there would be a porcine squeal as they slither with the dirty little trotters in their zinc troughs," he told his biographer Michael Romain, whose book was published this week. Unfortunately, the words proved too strong for Cambridge University Press, which has struck out the entire quotation. "They are frightfully prissy about that sort of thing and worried about upsetting the critics," says the author.*

More shooting

OLIVER STONE, the film director who likes to boast that he confronts Americans with the uncomfortable truth of their own history, has found a new conspiracy to expose. After *JFK*, his conspiracy theory version of that infamous day in Dallas, Stone has turned his attentions to the case of Leonard Peltier, the American Indian leader jailed for shooting two FBI agents. Peter Matthiessen, the American author, claims that in June 1975 the FBI picked a fight with Indians on the Pine Ridge Reservation which resulted in the deaths.

Liberté, qualité?

WHERE in London can buy Neil Kinnock's blue scarf, a giant pink teapot belonging to George Melly and a pair of earrings, property of *Coronation Street*'s Bet Lynch? Strange to relate, only at that former bastion of of good taste, Liberty. Swallowing the not inconsiderable pride that goes with the name, the store staged an "evening of bad taste" on Thursday night, for which it invited the famous to donate their naffest possessions to an auction for Centrepoint, the charity for the homeless.

Sotheby's director Malcolm Barber looked less than comfortable wielding the gavel. "I've sold some things in my time but this beats the lot," he sighed, holding up Kinnock's scarf. Liberty asked more than a hundred celebrities for suitably tasteless objects, although only 27 were prepared to own up to the unstylish objects which had once been given houseroom. Among the unabashed were Sir David Steel, who offered an appalling paperweight, and Suzanne Mizzi, who donated a pair of slippers embellished with a furry character from the film *Gremlins*. With some embarrassment of our own, the Diary has to admit these were purchased for £25 by a member of *The Times* staff, who is now offering an even greater sum to remain anonymous.

Fishier and fishier

A FRESH twist to the Diary story earlier this week about the refusal of the owners of the Annigoni portrait of Elizabeth II to lend the picture to the V & A for the official exhibition marking the Queen's 40th anniversary on the throne.

The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers insisted it was against policy to loan the picture "under any circumstances". This did not seem to fit with the loan of the Annigoni to the National Portrait Gallery six years ago.

It may be mere coincidence, but John Mallet, a leading member of the Fishmongers for more than 20 years and at one time its warden, worked for the V & A until he and eight other curators were made redundant in 1989 by the new director Elizabeth Esteve-Coll.

The Fishmongers Hall was also made available to the South Kensington Nine for their leaving party, to which Mrs Esteve-Coll was conspicuously not invited. Mallet, however, insists that the refusal to lend the picture is not an act of revenge. "It was such a palaver lending it to the NPG last time that we decided not to lend it again. The first I knew that we had turned the V & A down was when I read it in the *Times* Diary. I never even liked the painting myself," he says of the most famous portrait of the Queen ever painted. "I suppose it has a certain celebrity value, but if you ask me it looks best on a postage stamp."

THE TIMES

RULING THE WAVES

The Black Sea fleet was the Soviet Union's strategic counterbalance to the US Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. By comparison with most navies, including Britain's, it looks formidable. Equipped with tactical nuclear systems, it includes 45 large and 300 small and medium surface vessels, 28 submarines and nearly 250 aircraft and helicopters. But in practice, as both Russia and Ukraine well know, the strategically vital elements of the old Soviet navy are based elsewhere, in the north Atlantic and the Pacific. It is these blue water fleets, expanded and modernised under Brezhnev and carrying cruise and ballistic nuclear weapons, that most concern Nato and the Pentagon.

The West is still right to be alarmed by the public quarrel over control of the Black Sea fleet between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents, Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk. The main worry is not the uses to which the ships might be put, but the knock-on effects of failure to reach a compromise on the questionable health of the Russo-Ukrainian relationship. These two states hold the key not only to the survival of the nascent Commonwealth of Independent States, but to the maintenance of unified command of the former Soviet Union's strategic forces and with it, efforts to forestall the emergence of at least four nuclear-armed states.

The use of the Black Sea fleet as a political virility symbol stokes nationalist antagonisms on both sides. When he said that the fleet "was, is and will be Russia's", Mr Yeltsin was appealing to historical Russian pride in the navy as the creation, in 1783, of Catherine the Great. But such talk will only harden Ukrainian suspicions of Russian imperialism, which underlie Mr Kravchuk's insistence that the entire Black Sea fleet, along with all 1.3 million Soviet troops on Ukrainian soil, owes allegiance to Kiev.

If the Ukrainian leader persists, this in turn could open up disputes over territory, which the agreement to set up the commonwealth has so far helped to keep offstage. Mr Yeltsin has to contend with hardliners who already accuse him of "losing" the empire, Ukraine in particular and the Crimea most of all. The Black Sea fleet's home port is Sevastopol in the Crimea, Ukrainian only since 1954 and thanks to the Kremlin's tampering with borders. Some Russian politicians are already calling for the return of the Crimea. Neither leader seeks a territorial confrontation which would set off sparks across the commonwealth.

Hence the importance of last month's hardfought agreement on defence between the commonwealth's 11 members. This is beginning to unravel. The Black Sea battle reflects deeper disagreements between Russia and Ukraine over the definition of "strategic forces", which all states agreed to place under unified command. For Russia, it means all nuclear forces and supporting services, including the entire navy and airforce; for Ukraine only nuclear weapons. The mandate of Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, the commonwealth's temporary commander-in-chief, expires in March. A dissenting Ukraine could refuse to renew it.

The arguments over control of the military reflect divergent views of the commonwealth, seen by Ukraine as transitional and by Russia as creating a single economic, geographical and even political space. Mr Yeltsin's courageous freeing of prices as a first step towards a market economy has put him at loggerheads with Ukraine. Yesterday, Russia banned the export of 60 commodities to commonwealth states preventing exports to Russia. Given Russia's economic weight and international assumption of the role of "successor state" to the Soviet Union, these quarrels over trade, economic and monetary policy are essentially about sovereignty.

The Ukrainian and Russian foreign ministers are now struggling to draw back from the heated exchanges of the past week, when both presidents came close to treating each other as the heads of hostile powers. A political stand-off is badly needed to buy time for negotiating what the Russians call "a civilised way out". If the Black Sea fleet imbroglio is not converted soon from a test of virility into a trial of statesmanship, the former Soviet Union could add to today's economic chaos its own internal Cold War.

BASIC TAX PRINCIPLES

The Chancellor ought not to take a penny off income tax in the Budget. He and his team, holding their pre-Budget strategy session at Chevening this weekend, should rule that out. A tax cut is not necessarily a bad thing: a case for lower taxes can be made on economic grounds, and not only because it might add to the Tories' popularity. But there are better ways to cut taxes than to chop the basic rate. Instead, any room the Chancellor has for manoeuvre should be used to increase basic tax allowances by more than is needed to keep up with inflation.

The debate about whether to cut taxes or not has so far been almost entirely political. Some in the cabinet point to the fact that voters, when asked, give priority to public spending over lower taxes, by a majority (according to Gallup) of seven to one. Others argue that voters' behaviour belies what they tell the pollsters, and that nothing will so motivate them to put their cross by the Tory candidate as the glint of Treasury gold.

Curiously, economic factors have so far barely entered this argument. Tax cuts, quite aside from their potential political benefits, have potential economic benefits too. The recession will not end until the consumer starts to spend. A modest handout from Norman Lamont might boost the economy. Against this, the cabinet has not yet considered whether the Tories can afford to cut income tax. Coming on top of the £11 billion bonanza in public spending agreed by the Chancellor in his autumn statement, tax cuts might raise borrowing to a dangerous level.

This should particularly worry the Chancellor. If the Conservatives are to sustain the charge of profligacy against Labour, they need to show that they themselves are not profligate. Surrounded by his team at Chevening, Mr Lamont will have the latest information on government taxes and revenues before him, and can form a preliminary view as to whether lower taxes, if desired, can be afforded. His final judgment, however, must wait until the pre-Budget Treasury forecasts are ready.

What he could decide now is how to cut taxes, in advance of deciding whether to. The case for cutting the basic rate is political: it is a dramatic gesture, easily understood, and a step towards the Chancellor's long-term objective of a 20p-in-the-pound tax rate. But the political argument cuts both ways. Chopping the basic rate is a transparent hand-out. The more taxpayers earn, the more they get. This would enable Labour again to paint the Tories as the party of the rich.

At the same cost as a penny off income tax, the Chancellor could instead raise basic allowances by around 10 per cent in real terms, by £330 for a single person and £500 for a married couple. This would free hundreds of thousands of taxpayers from tax altogether. It would relieve what many see as the uniquely bad feature of the British tax system, that it catches even those on a desperately low wage of £60 a week. By helping the worst off, it would be a counter to Labour's minimum wage, putting money in the pockets of the poor without pricing them out of jobs. And it would give an equal amount of cash to all basic-rate taxpayers. A married couple would be better off by £2.40 a week.

The Tories tend to be the party of lower taxation and Labour the party of higher taxation. A Budget tax cut would emphasise that point and thus sharpen electoral choice. John Major wants also to emphasise his differences with Margaret Thatcher, notably through his commitment to a fairer, classless society. A tax cut through higher allowances would neatly encapsulate the Major appeal.

STRAIGHT FROM SHAKESPEARE

When, on the brink of death, Hamlet asks Horatio to "absent thee from felicity a while," he makes one of the most moving dying statements on record. It had not been realised until now that he was referring to Felicity, a fellow philosophy postgraduate student at the liberated university of Wittenberg, with whom Horatio had been having an ambidextrous fling. The friendship between Hamlet and Horatio, a little less than kin and more than kind, is at the centre of the latest reinterpretation of Shakespeare.

Shakespeare is the plastic playwright, who is continually remade to suit the fashion of the times. The past few years have reinvented Shylock as a director of Rothschild's, Portia as an Italian fascist Eva Braun, Lear as Hitler, Othello as Kwame Nkrumah, *As You Like It* as an all-male after-five-shadowed romp, Prospero as John Gielgud baldly and embarrassingly starkers, Puck as a circus juggler, and Ariel as the prospective prime minister of a primitive African state, with fly-whisk and corrupt incompetence.

The London Gay Theatre Company has been formed to rework the classics from a homosexual perspective. Its artistic director, Tim Luscombe, who was nominated as best newcomer in the Olivier Awards, says that the entire works of Shakespeare will lend themselves to a homosexual interpretation. "I would play up the gay relationship between Horatio and Hamlet, and make the Ophelia-Hamlet relationship a planned marriage by the fathers."

To those that have eyes for them, there are hints of homosexuality to be found in most of the Shakespearean canon. There are possibilities with Prince Hal and his hearty rugger mugger chums in *Henry V*. Is not Falstaff just a touch fruity, when he comes to Hal? Those Eastcheap pubs were boozers of infinite variety. And what does the Chorus have in mind when he declaims: "From camp to camp the hum of either army stilly sounds"? The exclusive definitions of gay, straight, and bisexual did not exist when Shakespeare was writing. NB the *Sonnets*. The Christians in the *Merchant* are ripe for replucking: "God made him, and therefore let him pass for a man."

A lesbian reworking of *Peter Pan* is at present playing in London, with the love that dare not speak its name on the tip of everyone's tongue. This always was a dodgy play when it came to sex, with bossy old Wendy, uptight and retarded Peter, and Mr Darling pretending to be the dog. The play that you cannot get into for love or money, *The Wind in the Willows*, is running the slyest hint of a gay triangle between Badger, Mole, and Ratty. It is all there in the text, if you look for it.

If the plays are good enough, which most of Shakespeare's are, they can survive the quirks and obsessions of their contemporary directors. Shakespeare is a misty ocean in which elephants can swim and lambs can paddle. In none of the plays, least of all *Hamlet*, is there a definitive version of where the invisible author stands. Perhaps he was a hard-headed Thatcherite, according to *Coriolanus* and *Troilus and Cressida* (in parts). Perhaps he was a bleeding heart on the side of the underdogs, as in *Lear*, *Hamlet* and *Macbeth*. No doubt he was Green and redneck as well. Never mind the bias of directors. Go for the words, and find whatever you want there, with pleasure. The old fellow is a manifesto for all seasons.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Credibility in exchange rates

From Professor Marcus Miller and Professor Lord Skidelsky

Sir, Even classical economists believed in easing monetary policy in a depression. Until now Britain's membership of the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) has permitted a fall in interest rates, but the raising of the German rate threatens a reversal. Raising interest rates in the UK now would be like hitting someone who is already down. Britain's inability to pursue a low interest-rate policy discredited the gold standard in the 1920s; the same could happen to the ERM today.

Some conclude that Britain should leave the ERM now. Professor Congdon and others argue (letter, January 7) that a return to domestic monetary targets would allow an immediate easing of UK rates and some fall in the value of sterling. But there are, we believe, great advantages in the ERM as a counter-inflationary regime which should not be lightly disregarded. The proposition that low inflation can be achieved by targeting money aggregates is not persuasive technically and dubious historically.

The need now is to maintain the credibility of the ERM while not exposing members to strains which will destroy it. The best course would be unilateral realignment by Germany. The "shock" of German unification is largely responsible for the present strain on the system. The adjustment of the German exchange rate to this shock is the best way of maintaining the credibility of the system as a whole.

The European Commission itself recognised in 1990 that in stage 1 realignments would be an appropriate instrument "in the case of country specific shocks". To those who object that this would be merely the first in a series of such realignments, the answer is that German reunification can only happen once.

Yours faithfully,
MARCUS MILLER,
ROBERT SKIDELSKY,
University of Warwick,
Department of Economics,
Coventry CV4 7AL.
January 9.

From Mr Michael Oliver

Sir, Professor Pollard (letter, January 7) is unfair to Sir Geoffrey Howe (letter, January 4). Whilst the tax burden was shifted more towards indirect taxation (adding 4 percentage points to inflation in 1979-80) the other main cause of higher inflation was the second oil price shock, adding 3 points to the price index.

The economy had been pushed into a "pit" (Professor Pollard's term) by the Labour government, not by the Conservatives. It was Labour who were unable to adopt a tight policy stance to reduce inflation after the first oil shock and Labour who chose to pursue a flabby supply-side policy which failed to offset price rises. Concomitantly, the growth rate under Labour was some 0.5 per cent below that achieved between 1981 and 1988.

Consequently, it is rather unfair to claim that Sir Geoffrey is "boasting" about his contribution to economic policy. Professor Pollard should provide a more balanced account.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL OLIVER,
Bristol Polytechnic,
Department of Humanities,
St Matthias, Oldbury Court Road,
Fishponds, Bristol, Avon.
January 9.

Number of MPs

From Mr Ray Ward

Sir, Peter Butler (letter, January 6) is wrong when he says that the total of 651 MPs after the next general election will be the largest number ever — though it will be the largest total since the greatest-ever reduction in numbers, when most of the Irish members were lost in 1922.

There were 658 members until 1885 when the number was increased to 670. It was further increased to an all-time high of 707 in 1918. The loss in 1922 was 92, reducing the numbers to 615 (the lowest point in modern times). Numbers were increased to 640 in 1945, reduced to 625 in 1948 with the abolition of university and multi-member constituencies (effective with the general election of 1950), and then increased to 630 in 1955, 635 in 1974, and 650 in 1983. And after the next general election there will, as Peter Butler says, be 651 due to the division of Milton Keynes into two.

Yours faithfully,
RAY WARD,
18 Springwell Avenue, NW10.

Future of Alzheimer research team

From the Dean of St Mary's Hospital Medical School

Sir, All of us who work in medical research are acutely conscious that research scientists are poorly paid and that funding by the Medical Research Council has fallen behind both national need and ingenuity. Nevertheless, I am delighted to be able to reassure Sir Eldred Smith-Gordon (letter, January 6) that, despite the threatened loss of a distinguished Alzheimer's research team to the USA, the atmosphere at St Mary's (now part of Imperial College) remains "very enthusiastic and lively". What is more, I have received assurances from benefactors which will enable the core of the team to remain here.

The importance is threefold. First, the team will continue to interact with others already working on the relationships of head injuries and Alzheimer's, on the causes of this and other dementias (especially in younger people) and on new genetic techniques to develop therapies for diseases such as cystic fibrosis which might be applied to Alzheimer's.

Second, patients stand to benefit from the continued partnership in care and research between our clinicians and scientists which sparked off the Alzheimer's research in the first place. Third, excellent students will be inspired by the succession of world-class breakthroughs here to devote themselves to research in previously intractable medical problems.

Not all the team will stay, but it looks as if enough will remain to rebuild the project with better facilities and improved personal prospects. No army worth its salt is dismayed by the loss of a general: St Mary's/Imperial College is worth its salt and is also deeply grateful for the generous demonstration of public concern and support.

This potentially happy outcome should not, however, divert attention from the fact that a succession of governments has failed to give sufficient priority to the funding of research and that reappraisal of our national values is long overdue.

Yours faithfully,
PETER RICHARDS, Dean,
St Mary's Hospital Medical School,
and Pro Rector (Medicine),
Imperial College,
Norfolk Place, W2.
January 8.

From Dr Sarah-Jane Richards

Sir, At the risk of disheartening your readership even further about the state of British science — I refer to the departure of members of the UK's largest and best-funded Alzheimer's research group to Florida (report, December 31) — I wish to report that an alpha-rated project developing a desperately needed animal model to Alzheimer's disease, which has already contributed to current understanding of the neuropathological proteins central to the disease, has failed to receive support from the Medical Research Council.

I have recently received a letter from the MRC grants section which acknowledges that this model is accepted as being of value to understanding the disease (indeed has been patented by the MRC) and has been rated by peer review as important for funding, but explains that funds just do not exist for supporting this work. Thus, yet again we see a breakthrough being made in this country but due to lack of financial support, being developed abroad.

Is it any wonder that scientists like myself, on a salary equivalent to that of a primary school teacher, on a short-term employment contract and working in a laboratory furnished in part from the hospital waste skip, consider there is no future in science in this country?

Yours sincerely,
SARAH-JANE RICHARDS
(Senior research scientist,
Department of Medicine),
Addenbrooke's Hospital,
Hull Road, Cambridge.
January 8.

Putting the record straight on CDs

From Mr David G. G. Wyld

Sir, It is a great pity that the myth of the £1 compact disc is still being perpetuated (leading article, "LP records scratched", January 7).

It is true that the cost of *pressing* the bit of plastic called a CD is approximately £1; however this does not take into consideration any of the other costs involved in providing a high-quality recording to put onto it.

Therefore, add to the £1 per disc the following: artists' fees, session musicians' fees, studio/hall charges, editing, mastering and post-production charges, transportation of equipment, let alone the wages of the recording engineer and any assistants.

These are the additional charges which are involved merely in making the original recording. On top of these, there is the matter of programme notes, typesetting, printing, packaging, distribution costs and payments to the Mechanical Copyright Protection Society by way of royalties to any holders of copyright over the recorded material.

We, as an independent record company, can produce a finished product for something over £3 per copy. We sell to our distributor for approximately £5 per copy, who then sells to the retailer for approximately £7.25 and finally on to the general public for over £12.

It is up to consumers to decide which recordings, issued on CD, are good value. Certainly, old recorded material reissued in a new form costs very little to produce and should be less expensive to purchase.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID G. G. WYLD
(Managing Director),
Mirabilis Records,
5 King's Croft Gardens,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Defending Trident

From Lieutenant-General Sir Martin Garrod

Sir, I must take issue with Commander Green's diatribe (letter, January 1) against Trident. He quoted the Gulf war, and in particular the first Scud attack on Israel, as the factor to shake him out of his "pro-nuclear brainwashing". The Gulf war, however, was fought with conventional weapons and it is noteworthy that Saddam Hussein did not use his chemical or biological weapons against the Allied Force — even though, as we have seen, he was perfectly prepared to use them against his own people.

Commander Green, and others who share his views, should remember that he has been able to serve a full career in the Royal Navy without being dragged into a world war on the mainland of Europe, unlike his predecessors in the first half of this century; this due to the steadfastness of Nato, underpinned by the nuclear forces of the United States and Great Britain.

Commander Green also said: "Threatening use of nuclear weapons is the ultimate expression of megalomania and terrorism". Nato throughout has been a defensive alliance, and I would have had more sympathy with this statement if he had added the words "by dictators" after weapons.

I laud your excellent leading article of December 28 and firmly believe that Trident (which consumes a small part of our defence expenditure) must remain a central part of our overall defence capability, at least until the world is a much safer place — and that certainly does not include the dangerous last decade of the 20th century.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
MARTIN GARROD,
The Strand, Walmer,
Deal, Kent.
January 2.

Historic houses

From Lord Camoys

Sir, I was encouraged by your report (January 2) of Lord Shelburne's initiative in suggesting to the Chancellor changes in the law to allow owners to establish maintenance funds, free of income and capital-gains taxes, which could only be used for upkeep and repairs. Without this change the future of most of our historic houses is bleak indeed — and being made bleaker by the plight of our farming industry, which until recently provided significant income to many owners of historic houses.

To make tax-free funds really effective, however, the Chancellor should allow roll-over relief or its equivalent for objects previously exempted from capital transfer and capital gains taxes and which are sold to endow maintenance funds.

At present, whilst the business of opening a house may be treated as a business by the Inland Revenue and by the VAT authorities, no roll-over relief is allowed on the proceeds of the sale of a chattel which are then used either for capital repairs or for maintenance purposes.

Yours faithfully,
CAMOYS,
Stonor Park,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
January 6.

Stiffer rules for public worship

From the Reverend Roger Thomas

Sir, It is not often that I jump to the defence of bishops, but your leading article of January 6, "Unbending bishops", prompts me to do so. The issue is not of diversity, but of anarchy.

All clergy take an oath on their appointment that in public worship they will use the Book of Common Prayer and none other except that which is ordained by lawful authority. As that includes the Alternative Service Book with all its flexibility, and those orders which synod regularly authorises, we already have great diversity.

The Bishop of Bristol is rightly worried about do-it-yourself liturgies which bear little resemblance to any of these. It is little comfort that your leader points to our Church of England structures being still in place, if its laws can be flouted: especially, as it would seem, with the encouragement of *The Times*.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER THOMAS,
Frenchay Rectory,
Bristol, Avon.

From the Bishop of Bristol

Sir, The purpose of my book of essays, to which your report and leading article referred, was to foretell "what might be", not "what is" with regard to the future of Christianity in Britain. One affirmative conclusion is that there will be a changed and enlarged menu of services on church notice boards.

Liturgy is the outward sign of the common faith of the Church. That is why every bishop, priest, deacon and reader, before each new appointment, promises, ". . . and in public prayer and administration of the sacraments I will use only the forms of service which are authorised or allowed by Canon".

The real challenge to the Church of England in the next 30 years is how to worship God through a rich variety of liturgies and at the same time hold to a common faith.

Yours sincerely,
†BARRY BRISTOL:,
Bishop's House,
Clifton Hill, Bristol.

From Mr A. Dark

Sir, Anglicanism is always best defined and identified by its worship: if the outward forms change, so does the doctrine behind it. The "liturgical anarchy" of which the Bishop of Bristol rightly speaks represents the break-up of the doctrinal integrity of the Church of England.

The intimate relationship between language, worship and doctrine, and common prayer as the cement of Anglicanism, have been constant themes of the Prayer Book Society ever since the principle of common prayer was breached by the Alternative Service Book in 1980. Does the bishop's cry of alarm mean that some at least of his brethren are now more willing to listen to some of the things the Prayer Book Society has been saying than many of them have been in the recent past?

Yours faithfully,
A. DARK,
74 Breakspear Road South,
Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

From Sir Michael McNair-Wilson, MP for Newbury (Conservative)

Sir, Thank God Bishop Rogerson has spoken out against "liturgical anarchy" in the Church of England.

On Christmas Day, at a "family service" followed by Communion, we said, and I read, the Lord's Prayer according to the wording of one of the newer versions. For Communion we used the words of the traditional version set down in the Book of Common Prayer. It is one that I learned as a boy and know by heart.

I wonder what they make of all of this in Heaven. Perhaps the King in Hamlet summed it up when he stated: "My words fly up, my thoughts remain below, words without thoughts never to Heaven go".

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL McNAIR-WILSON,
House of Commons.

From Mr F. P. A. Wood

Sir, Your leading article got it the wrong way round. Had more parochial church councils shown some stiffness in resisting the introduction of the Alternative Service Book we would not be in this mess now.

Who else but the bishops started it all? Three cheers for Bristol and the royal family.

Yours faithfully,
FRED WOOD,
Hackney Plat,
Congleton Lane, Siddington,
Nr Macclesfield, Cheshire.

Laws of disorder

From Dr Henry Giles

Sir, More modestly than some of your correspondents (December 26, 28, January 2, 4) I enunciate Giles's hypothesis:

Part 1. No public transport vehicle (including Underground trains) travelling in the direction required can be expected until at least one vehicle has passed going the other way.

Part 2. The number of vehicles which must first pass in the wrong direction is proportionate to the urgency of one's journey.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY GILES,
6 Bryony Road, Weoley Hill,
Birmingham 29.

From the Archdeacon of York

Sir, Austin's law of ecclesiastical administration: for every five letters and two small packages received, one will fill 12 baskets with the fragments that remain.

Yours faithfully,
G. B. AUSTIN,
7 Lang Road,
Bishopthorpe, York.

From Mr F. D. Beasor

Sir, Beasor's law of inverse distances: at any gathering of people those living nearest arrive last.

Yours,
F. D. BEASOR,
12 Church Street,
Byfield, Northamptonshire.

From Mr Evan M. Davies

Sir, Davies's law is that no matter when one books onto an aeroplane, one's baggage arrives last in the baggage hall.

Yours faithfully,
EVAN M. DAVIES,
31 Castle Street,
Farnham, Surrey.

From Captain A. E. Thomson, RN

Sir, Thomson's law: when I arrive late for choir practice it has already started. If I get to the church on time the choir practice starts late.

Yours sadly,
ANDREW THOMSON,
Bay Tree Cottage, Bentley,
Farnham, Surrey.

From Mr Paul W. Matcham

Sir, Matcham's key principle provides that when with fully-laden right arm one is looking for a key, it is to be found in a right-hand pocket.

Yours etc.,
PAUL W. MATCHAM,
Windfell, Windsor Lane,
Little Kingshill,
Great Missenden,
Buckinghamshire.
January 6.

Weekend Money letters, page 26

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

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COURT CIRCULAR

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

January 10: The Duchess of Kent, Patron of the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, this evening attended a concert by the Birmingham Chamber Orchestra at the International Conference Centre, Birmingham and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the West Midlands (The Earl of Aylesford).

Mrs Fiona Henderson was in attendance.

Service dinners

RN College Greenwich
Commander E. M. Searle, Commander of the Royal Naval College Greenwich, presided at the annual officers' dinner of the Royal Naval Reserve Public Affairs Branch held last night at the college. Major-General Julian Thompson also spoke. Lord Sterling of Plaistow, Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP, and Commander W.J. Ellison, WRNR, were among the other guests.

RAF Support Command
Wing Commander Barry Jones presided at a guest night dinner given by officers and ladies of Brampton Park Officers' Mess last night at RAF Brampton to mark the retirement of Air Vice-Marshal M.J.C.W. Dicken, Air Officer Administration. Air Vice-Marshal D.B.A.L. Davies, Principal Medical Officer, and Air Commodore D.C. Collins, Air Commodore Supply and Movements. Air Marshal Sir John Thomson, Commander-in-Chief, RAF Support Command, also spoke. Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Commander-in-Chief, RAF Strike Command, was also a guest.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of York, as Patron-in-Chief of the British Schools Exploring Society, will attend an audio-visual presentation at the Royal Geographical Society at 2.20.

Prince Edward, patron, will attend a concert given by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham, at 7.00.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: The Right Rev J.A. Baker, Bishop of Salisbury, 64; Mr J. Rashleigh Belcher, thoracic surgeon, 75; Sir Alan Bowness, former director, Tate Gallery, 64; Mr Henry Cecil, racehorse trainer, and Mr David Cecil, racehorse breeder, 49; Mr Jason Connery, actor, 29; Mr Neville Duke, former test pilot, 70; Air Marshal Sir Reginald Emson, 80; Mr A.A. Gray, former chairman, Wellcome Foundation, 80.

Lord Jacques, 87; Sir Alastair Morton, British chairman, Eurotunnel, 54; Sir Anthony Nutting, former MP, 72; Mr Jim Perris, governor, Wormwood Scrubs, 50; Mr Bryan Robson, footballer, 35; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Rogers, 64; Mr Arthur Scargill, trades unionist, 54; Mr John Sessions, actor and comedian, 39; Air Commodore Joy Tamblin, former director, WRAF, 66; Mr R.C. Tress, former master, Birkbeck College, 77.

TOMORROW: Mr Anthony Andrews, actor, 44; Mr Ernest Armstrong, former MP, 77; Mr Michael Aspel, broadcaster, 59; Sir Charles Ball, company director, 68; Mr H.G.H. Barratt, trades unionist, 87; Lord Boardman, 73; Mr P.W. Botha, former South African president, 76; Sir James Bottomley, diplomat, 72; Air Vice-Marshal S.O. Bufton, 84; the Hon Sir Richard Butler, former president, National Farmers' Union, 63; Mr James Byam Shaw, art historian, 89; Miss Stella Cunliffe, statistician, 75; Mr K. Dawson, headmaster, Haberdashers' Aske's School, 55; Mr Brendan Foster, athlete, 44.

Mr Joe Frazier, boxer, 48; Baroness Hamwee, 45; Baroness Hilton of Eggardon, 56; Miss Anne Howells, concert and opera singer, 51; Lord Justice McCowan, 64; Mr Denys Milne, former managing director, BP Oil, 66; Mr James Mortimer, former general secretary, Labour Party, 71; Mr Des O'Connor, entertainer, 60; Sir John Rennie, former governor-general, Mauritius, 75; Sir Terence Streeton, diplomat, 62; Mr Justice Swinton Thomas, 61.

University news

Stirling
Mr David Mackay, chief executive of the North East River Purification Board, has been appointed visiting professor in aquatic environmental management in the Institute of Aquaculture at Stirling.

Anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: Il Parmigianino, painter, Parma, Italy, 1503; Sir John Macdonald, first prime minister of Canada 1867-73, 1878-91, Glasgow, 1815; Fred Archer, champion jockey, Prestbury, Gloucestershire, 1857; George Curzon, Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, viceroy of India 1898-1905, Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire, 1859; Harry Gordon Selfridge, founder of the London store bearing his name, Ripon, Wisconsin, 1864.

DEATHS: Sir Hans Sloane, physician and collector, London, 1753; Louis François Roubiliac, sculptor, London, 1762; Domenico Cimarosa, composer, Venice, 1801; Friedrich von Schlegel, philosopher and historian, Dresden, 1829; Thomas Hardy, novelist and poet, Dorchester, 1928; Hugh Gaitskell, leader of the Labour Party 1955-63, London, 1963; Lal Bahadur Shastri, prime minister of India 1964-66, Tashkent, 1966; Alberto Giacometti, sculptor, Chur, Switzerland, 1966; Padraic Colum, poet, Enfield, Connecticut, 1972.

The first lottery in England was drawn, 1569.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: Jean Baptiste van Helmont, chemist, Brussels, 1580; Edmund Burke, statesman, Dublin, 1729; Johann Pestalozzi, educator, Zurich, 1746; John Singer Sargent, portrait painter, Florence, 1856; Sir Charles Oman, historian, Mozufferpore, India, 1860; Jack London, novelist, San Francisco, 1876; Ference Molnár, dramatist, Budapest, 1878.

DEATHS: Nevil Shute, novelist and aeronautical engineer, Melbourne, 1960; Dame Agatha Christie, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, 1976.

Archaeology

Judging the impact of man's advance

BY NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE DATE of human settlement of Madagascar has been pushed back to 2,000 years ago. Radiocarbon dating of the butchered bones of an extinct dwarf hippopotamus suggests that people arrived at the Indian Ocean island around the time of Christ, at least five centuries earlier than had previously been thought.

The fossil bones were collected at the turn of the century by French scientists and stored in Paris. They were relocated by Dr R. McPhee, of the American Museum of Natural History, and traced to sites at Lamboharana and Ambolisatra on the southwest coast of Madagascar.

Deep cuts "made by the hand of man" had been noted by M Grandidier when he collected the bones, but he was unable to date them. There has long been a consensus, say Dr McPhee and his colleague, Dr David Burney, that the dwarf hippopotamus and more than 20 other species became extinct shortly after the first humans reached Madagascar.

Microscopic analysis of the cuts showed that they were made in fresh bone by metal tools. By dating tiny samples of bone in the radiocarbon accelerators at the universities of Arizona and Toronto, they were able to place the death of one of the hippos between 2,100 and 1,900 years ago, and another some three centuries later.

"This means that the minimum estimate for initial human presence in Madagascar should now be set around two thousand years ago," the investigators say. They estimate that it took only a thousand years for nearly two dozen species to become extinct, compared with three centuries for the extinction of the moa bird after the Maori arrived in New Zealand.

These new data will renew the controversy over the extinction of the megafauna in North America, including the mastodon and the native horse. Professor Paul Martin, of the University of Arizona, suggested that a *blitzkrieg* advance of humans southwards, spanning the whole of the Americas in little over a millennium, was responsible for the extinctions. Other scholars argue that climatic change was responsible, and that many extinguished species were not hunted by early Native Americans.

The Malagasy evidence suggests that a *blitzkreig* model is valid for large islands: the debate will now centre on whether it can apply at a continental scale.

Source: *Journal of Archaeological Science* 18: 695-706.

OBITUARIES

FRANK YERBY

Frank Garvin Yerby, black American historical novelist, died in Madrid on November 29 aged 75. He was born in Augusta, Georgia, on September 5, 1916.

THE news of Frank Yerby's death was delayed by his widow for some weeks at his own request. He asked that he might be buried in "complete privacy". Since the 1946 publication of his first historical novel, *The Foxes of Harrow*, Yerby was one of the most successful of fully literate popular authors: his total sales exceeded 60 million and his works (more than 30 novels) were translated into 30 languages.

Yerby was no ordinary popular writer. Apart from being vilified by fellow-blacks (and some others) for "superficial research, melodramatic plotting, purple prose and sub-freshman grammar, comic-book characterisation, and, above all, betrayal of his negritude", Yerby perpetually sought to write seriously — and, perhaps unexpectedly, he was perfectly capable of it, as a few of his later novels clearly demonstrate.

He gained his first degree from Paine College, Augusta, in 1937; he went on from there to Fisk College in Nashville, Tennessee to take his MA (1938). He worked as a university teacher at Baton Rouge and elsewhere until 1941. During the war he was a laboratory technician for the Ford Motor Company. He became a full-time writer in 1945.

Yerby had published a single short story, "The Thunder of God", in the Chicago *New Anvil* magazine in 1939, but what seemed to further his career as a black writer of consequence was his second story, "Health Card", still memorable. This account of the humiliation of a black couple by police was published in the *O. Henry Award Prize Stories 1944*. It was followed by three more, highly esteemed stories of the same sort, the last of which, "My Brother Went to College", appeared in *Black American Literature: Fiction* as late as 1969. But Yerby had married in 1941, and now had children to educate.

He set himself a task of writing, frankly for money, an escapist romance of the south after the civil war. The result was *The Foxes of Harrow* (1946), and he found that he could not afford to look back. It had soon sold a million copies, and the film, directed by John M. Stahl, was released in 1947.

There were to be more films, and such titles as *The Saracen Blade* (1952), *Bride of Liberty* (1954) and *The Serpent and the Staff* (1958) were predictable enough. Yet Yerby was well aware that these books were close to trash, and even gave a cynical account of the formula for his "costume novels" in a celebrated and rather bitter article in *Harper's* in 1959.

Twenty years later, after producing many more of them, he claimed that they were "entertainment"... "in the sense that Graham Greene uses the word", and that he was "*not* ashamed". However, he added that he hoped in the future to concentrate on "more serious work. Present day taxation makes writing 'entertainments' worth neither the boredom nor the bother."

It remains to be said that, as a critic pointed out, Yerby's costume romances do differ from much other such material in several respects: "Yerby's heroes are not faithful, the heroines not virtuous,...the 'colourful milieu' is sordid, the upper classes are mean-spirited, bigoted and greedy."

There was no reason to expect such a writer to produce subsequently "serious fiction". Yet he almost did. *The Dahomean* (1971 — published in Britain as *The Man from Dahomey*), a long account of the making of an African chief, and his only book entirely about negroes, is badly written and vitiated by its too painstaking and unnecessary recourse to anthropological sources. But it is moving and controlled — a thousand miles away from his melodramatic costume pieces. *Judas, my brother* (1969), set in the first century, was another novel of genuine interest.

Yerby early went to live in France while his four children by his first wife, the former Flora Helen Claire Williams, were educated in Switzerland. He settled in Spain for good in 1954, and in 1956, his first marriage having ended in divorce, he married the former Blanca Calle Perez who survives him.

THE RT REV HUBERT HIGGS

The Right Rev Hubert Higgs, Bishop Suffragan of Hull from 1965 to 1976, died on January 4 aged 80. He was born on November 23, 1911.

HUBERT Higgs became Bishop Suffragan of Hull at a time of great change for the city, whose pride was in its fishing fleet. When in the terrible winter of 1967-8 three trawlers were lost off Iceland, the whole city grieved. The Bishop came to be seen as a father figure who not only comforted individuals in their loss but who in the midst of Hull's changing fortunes also worked with industrialists, academics and city fathers to help the locality to a new self-confidence.

Hubert Laurence Higgs was a Londoner, educated at University College School, where he was school captain and an energetic member of the 1st XV. He continued to play rugby at Cambridge for Christ's College, of which he was a scholar and where he achieved a "double first" in classics and theology, before moving to Ridley Hall for ordination training.

He served curacies at Richmond, Kensington and Boscombe. In Winchester diocese he was joint secretary of the youth council, an early recognition of his ability in ministering to young men and women. Throughout the war he was vicar of the evangelical parish of Holy Trinity, Aldershot, where his church became a home-from-home for many of those who found themselves called up and sent to Aldershot for training. As a civilian, Higgs was able to provide many of them with a steadying friendship as well as moral support.

After the war he became editorial secretary of the Church Missionary Society at a time when, under the powerful leadership of Sir Kenneth Grubb and Canon Max Warren, the CMS was busy preparing the way for the effects of de-colonisation and for the strengthening of indigenous leadership. But Higgs never really saw himself as a staff officer behind the lines and so it was not long before he was back in the front line of the parochial ministry as vicar of St John's, Woking. Here he had wider scope for his gifts and was appointed rural dean and elected as one of the four representatives of the Guildford clergy on the Church Assembly.

In 1957 Bishop Coggan appointed him archdeacon of Bradford, a comparatively small diocese where they worked happily together. Eight years later Dr Donald Coggan, having moved on to York, nominated Higgs to the suffragan bishopric of Hull.

Higgs was entirely lacking in pretension or pomposity but his fatherly sensitivity brought out the best in people and evoked their affection and support. Higgs concentrated much on his local tasks and was not one to seek advancement beyond his immediate responsibilities. As part of the team of bishops working with the Archbishop of York he was in charge of the day-to-day administration of the church in the old East Riding with a great influence on policy formation.

As the concept of Humberside grew, his deep voice became familiar on local radio. At the same time he was sponsoring a detailed new strategy for each parish and experimenting with new team structures. His finest work was probably the encouragement, both in Bradford and York, of ordinands and younger clergy.

He never paraded his scholarship, but he had a way with words and an impish sense of humour that helped him to meet junior arrogance with the mature simplicity of a truly godly man.

If some of his friends were disappointed that he never quite seemed to fulfil his potential, others of them knew that he was a very popular bishop with whom people felt relaxed and at home. His unpretentious style and his ability never to speak over people's heads led to his being greatly loved by both laity and clergy who also appreciated the hospitality which he and his wife provided so regularly. Many will remember Higgs for his great sense of fun and for his love of puns, in which he took an almost schoolboy delight.

Characteristically, when he retired at the age of 65 he settled in the depths of the Suffolk countryside where he exercised a quiet and modest retirement ministry for another 15 years.

He married Elizabeth Rogers in 1936. She survives him, together with a daughter and a son.

ELIZABETH DUCKWORTH

Elizabeth Duckworth, London society cook, died on December 6 at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington aged 84. She was born on January 1, 1907.

TO MANY who lived and moved in London society from the 1930s to the 1970s, the death of Elizabeth Duckworth will seem like the end of an era. A resident of Mayfair for 56 years, she was one of the great characters of its *Upstairs, Downstairs* world. Officially, she belonged downstairs, but she was never a respecter of persons. Her grandeur of spirit, and sometimes manner, made her as much at home upstairs — in the drawing-room with royalty, the rich, famous and occasionally infamous — as she was in the kitchens she ruled so regally.

Elizabeth Irene Green was born at Peterstow, Ross-on-Wye, and the Herefordshire accent she retained all her life gave an emphasis and authority to her pronouncements. And pronouncements they were: she demanded a healthy respect on the part of the listener.

In 1928, at the age of 21, she joined the Ascot household of George Hay Whigham, founder and chairman of British Celanese. Their only child, Margaret Whigham, an outstanding beauty, became Britain's debutante of the year in 1930. She married the American golf champion Charles Sweeny in a ceremony which had the crowds jamming the streets outside Brompton Oratory.

In 1932 Elizabeth Green married the Whighams' butler, Leslie Duckworth, and in 1935 the Duckworths took over the running of the Whighams' Mayfair house, 48 Upper Grosvenor Street. On their death this passed into the ownership of Margaret Sweeny, who in 1951 became the third wife of the 11th Duke of Argyll. The Duckworths stayed with the family.

Mrs Duckworth was far more than merely the duchess's cook and housekeeper. She was a friend and confidante, and during her employer's extensive foreign travels, became a mother-figure to the duchess's two children by her first marriage, Brian Sweeny, and Frances, now the Duchess of Rutland.

In her 40-year reign at Upper Grosvenor Street, Mrs Duckworth cooked for royalty, for many members of the cabinet, for Hollywood film stars, and for a procession of appreciative tycoons. The society photographer Brodrick Haldane, a frequent guest, said: "She was an artist with food. It was not merely a question of taste but of presentation. The appearance of every dish, both in arrangement and colour, was exquisite."

In 1956, when Leslie Duckworth collapsed and died from a sudden heart attack at nine o'clock in the morning, she continued her cooking of the ducal breakfast, observing sadly: "Life has to go on and people have to eat."

In 1963 the Duke of Argyll's divorce action against his wife developed into a major society scandal. Mrs Duckworth immediately sided with the duchess and was unswerving in her support, yet she never entirely lost her affection for the duke and regularly paid tribute to his charm.

In 1974, she retired to her own apartment in Balderton Street, Mayfair, opposite Selfridges, but continued to make weekly tours of inspection of the duchess's house, casting a critical eye over the methods of her successor. These continued when the duchess moved in 1978 to a penthouse in Grosvenor House Hotel.

In 1986, when the duchess published *My Dinner Party Book*, it contained a tribute to "Mrs Duckworth, my wonderful housekeeper ... generally acknowledged as one of the best cooks in London", as well as 37 of her best recipes.

Elizabeth Duckworth was one of the few people who never appeared to be in awe of the duchess. She frequently corrected her or told her she was ill-advised, yet behind this severity lay a deep devotion and affection. When, in 1990, financial problems forced the duchess to exchange the splendour of Grosvenor House for the refuge of a nursing home in Pimlico, much of Mrs Duckworth's *raison d'être* seemed to depart as well. The Northern Ireland secretary, Peter Brooke, her Member of Parliament, stepped in to replace the modest pension the duchess could no longer pay her. But after 62 years contact with her employer had been severed and the last two years of her life were overshadowed by loneliness. She had no children.

COL MARTIN GRAFTON

A. W. T. writes:

MARTIN Grafton, who believed that a man should exaggerate his age, so that others might say "how young he looks", surely would have enjoyed the irony of having his own age at departure recorded (obituary, January 3) as 83 and not 72. (His correct date of birth is June 28, 1919). Certainly he would bear no malice. Everyone was allowed one mistake which was attributed to "Fred". His staff repaid this kindly tolerance with respect, affection and loyalty. An example of this is that when he retired from his last job at NFBTE in 1979, not only was he fêted there, but the staff at John Lewis, where he had not worked for over 15 years, also clubbed together to put on a party for him. He was a man of great ebullience. Those of us who knew him profit from having done so.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr K.D. Broadfoote-Brown and Miss M.A. Weir
The engagement is announced between Keith Douglas, only son of Mr and Mrs B.K. Broadfoote-Brown, of Johannesburg, South Africa, and Margaret (Meg) Alexandra, daughter of Rear Admiral and Mrs A.F.R. Weir, of Tipton, St Kew, Cornwall.

Dr M.J. Campbell and Dr A.M. Campbell
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mrs D.M. Campbell and the late Mr W.A. Campbell, of Tangmere, near Chichester, Sussex, and Alison, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.F. Campbell, of Reskadinnick, Camborne, Cornwall.

Mr R.J. Colloredo-Mansfeld and Miss F.N.R. Varcoe
The engagement is announced between Rudi, son of Mr and Mrs F. Colloredo-Mansfeld, of Hamilton, USA, and Chesca, elder daughter of Mr J. Varcoe and the late Mrs W. Varcoe, of London.

Mr D. Cullen and Miss A.H. Carlile
The engagement is announced between Del, son of Mr and Mrs Derek Cullen, of Winchmore Hill, London, N21, and Anna, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alexander Carlile, of Berriew, Montgomeryshire.

Mr S.J.M. Evans and Miss J.M. Hussey
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Dr Morton Evans and the late Mrs Sheila Evans, of Denbigh, Clwyd, and Julie, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Ralph Hussey, of Croxley Green, Hertfordshire.

Mr H.M. Frost and Miss T.E. Strangeways
The engagement is announced between Hugh, elder son of Mr T.M. Frost, of Evershot, Dorset, and Mrs E.J.P. Frost, of South Perrott, Dorset, and Tessa, daughter of Dr and Mrs P.R. Strangeways, of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Mr T.G. Hilbert and Miss A.J.E. Mellor
The engagement is announced between Thomas Hilbert, of Kirkheim, Germany, and Mandy, only daughter of the late Brigadier A.H.S. Mellor, OBE, and of Mrs Andrew Patrick, of Kencot, Lechlade, Gloucestershire.

Captain T.D. Hyams and Miss Z.L. Mack
The engagement is announced between Timothy David Hyams, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, son of Mr and Mrs David Hyams, of Seer Green, Buckinghamshire, and Zoe Lavinia, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Mack, of Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

Mr I.J. Lindsay and Miss J. Gad
The engagement is announced between Ivan, eldest son of the Hon Thomas and Mrs Lindsay of The Old Rectory, Ashmore, Salisbury, Wiltshire, and Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Mads Gad, of Rolighedsvej 11, 2942 Skodsborg, Denmark.

Mr G. Luongo and Miss C.J. West
The engagement is announced between Gippino, son of Enrico and Antonietta Luongo, of Nottingham, and Candida-Jane, younger daughter of Keith and Patricia West, of Tenerife, Canary Islands.

Mr A.P. Mason and Miss S.A. Elmitt
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs G.O. Mason, of Caldy, Wirral, and Susie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs M.A. Elmitt, of West Hill Park, Titchfield, Hampshire.

Mr J.J. Morgan-Smith and Miss C. Mansell
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Morgan-Smith, of Clatford, Marlborough, and Charlotte, daughter of Mrs Elizabeth Mansell, of Withycombe Barton, Exmouth, and Mr Guy Mansell, of Covent Garden.

Mr M.A. Osborn and Miss B.H. Lloyd
The engagement is announced, with great pleasure, between Mark, youngest son of Mr and Mrs D.J. Osborn, of Lincoln, and Bryony, daughter of Dr and Mrs J.B.F. Lloyd, of Oldbury, West Midlands.

Mr G.L. Paterson and Miss M.C. Brune
The engagement is announced between Guy, younger son of Mrs P.M. and the late Mr H.N.C. Paterson, of Sunningdale, Berkshire, and Marion, daughter of Mr and Mrs F.W. Brune, of Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr C.F. Redshaw and Miss T.E. Lambert
The engagement is announced between Clive, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Redshaw, of Lockerley, Hampshire, and Tessa, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Lambert, of Stockbridge, Hampshire.

Mr A.K. Roach and Miss Y.D. Squire
The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr C.S. Roach and Mrs P.A.K. Roach, of Cheltenham, and Yvonne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs P.T. Squire, of Bradford on Avon.

Dr G. Shinner and Miss C.C. Bentley
The engagement is announced between Guy, second son of the late Mr Peter Shinner and of Mrs Judy Cutler and stepson of Mr Brian Cutler, of Chawton, Hampshire, and Clare, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Clifford Bentley, of Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Mr R.A. Spalding and Miss N.M. Morrison
The engagement is announced between Richard, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Spalding, of Corsley, Wiltshire, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Morrison, of Cults, Aberdeen.

Mr W.J.S. Stephenson and Miss S.E.A. Moylan
The engagement is announced between William, only son of Mr and Mrs John Stephenson, of Wylam, Northumberland, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Lloyd Moylan, of Wells, Somerset.

Major R.M.McQ. Sykes and Miss A.S.V. Hennebry
The engagement is announced between Major Matthew Sykes, Royal Horse Artillery, elder son of Mr and Mrs R.C.M. Sykes, of Chelsea, London, and Anne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs T.M. Hennebry, of Ealing, London.

Dr M.S. Williams and Dr E.J. Milner-Gulland
The engagement is announced between Martin, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Williams, of Epsom Downs, Surrey, and Eleanor Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Milner-Gulland, of Washington, Pulborough, Sussex.

Marriage

Colonel H. Kelly and Mrs J. Johnson
The marriage took place on Wednesday, January 8, 1992, at St George's Church, Douglas, Isle of Man, between Colonel Henry Kelly, of Ballaqueeney Lodge, Douglas, and Mrs Joan Johnson, of Sandiford Cottage, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire. The Ven David Willoughby, Archdeacon of the Isle of Man, officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her son, Mr Peter Johnson and was attended by her daughter-in-law, Mrs Sonia Johnson. Mr William Kelly, the bridegroom's nephew, was best man.

Appointment

Dr Hilary Nicolle to be Chief Executive of the School Examinations Assessment Council.

Dinners

HM Government

Mr John Wakeham, Secretary of State for Energy, and the Hon Tim Sainsbury, Minister for Trade, presided at a dinner given by Her Majesty's Government last night at Lancaster House in honour of Mr Kozo Watanabe, Minister for International Trade and Industry of Japan.

The Association of Anaesthetists

The Association of Anaesthetists held its Diamond Jubilee Dinner last night at the New Connaught Rooms, London. The President, Dr P.J.F. Baskett, received the guests who included:

Professor and Mrs A. A. Spence, Lieutenant General Sir Peter and Lady Beale, Dr and Mrs K. C. Calman, Professor and Mrs D Campbell, Dr and Mrs D Chamberlain, Sir Alex and Lady Jarratt, Dr and Mrs C J Clough, Dr T M Moles, Professor Sir Gordon and Lady Robson, Professor Sir Keith and Lady Sykes, His Excellency Mr Joseph Sisuli, Dr and Mrs J S M Zorab, Mr and Mrs W K Reid, CB, Professor Genevieve Barrier, Dr Jeremy Lee Poulet, Dr Anneke Meursing, Dr Harm Lip.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London

The 40th Anniversary Dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London took place at the Langham Hilton Hotel, London, on January 10, 1992. The Chairman, Mrs Shirley Purves, presided. The Loyal Toast was proposed by the President, Mr Frank Allen, and the Guest of Honour, Lord Deedes, proposed the toast to the Immortal Memory. Other speakers were Mrs Alfreda Howlett, Mr Colin Prestige and Mr Tony Medawar. Dame Jean Conan Doyle and Lady Patricia Gore Booth were the other principal guests.

Church services tomorrow

First Sunday after Epiphany

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M, Rev Dr J C Polkinghorne; 11 S Euch, Canterbury Mass (Moore), O nata lux (Tallis), The Archdeacon; 3.15 E, Responses (Mosley), Purcell in B flat, Surge illuminare (Palestrina), 6.30 Sermon & Compline, Rev D R Barker.

YORK MINSTER: 8 & 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Rev R Hoare; 11.30 M, Responses (Ayleward), Stanford in B flat; 4 E, Sumsion in G, When Jesus our Lord (Mendelssohn), Very Rev J Southgate.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Responses (Hendrie), Te Deum & Jubilate (Macpherson in E), Personent hodie (Holst); 3.15 E, Naylor in D, Seek him that maketh the seven stars (Elgar), Canon M Saward.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Tallis), Tomkins Second Service, O magnum mysterium (Morales), Canon A Harvey; 11.15 Abbey Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Canon C Semper; 3 E, Introit (Arise, shine), Wood in E, When Jesus our Lord (Mendelssohn), Rev A Luff; 5.45 Organ Recital; 6.30 ES, Canon C Semper.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 HC; 11 Euch, Missa Laudate Dominum (Lassus), The Three Kings (Cornelius), The Lamb (Tavener), Rev S Haines; 3 E, Stanford in C, Quem vidistis pastores (Poulenc), Canon R White.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: Masses 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30 & 7; 10.30 SM, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), Final from Symphonie VI (Vierne); 2.30 Organ Recital; 3.30 Solemn V & B, Magnificat octavi toni (Bevan), Inveni David (Palestrina), Aria (Vierne).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 6 LM (Sat); 10 Children's Mass; 6 LM; 11.30 HM, Missa Brevis (Haydn), Ave Verum (Byrd), Fr M Jones.

GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE DIVINE WISDOM, Moscow Rd, W2: 9.30 M; 11 Divine Liturgy.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD, Ennismore Gdns, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy.

SERBIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF ST SAVVA, Lancaster Rd, W11: 10.30 Divine Liturgy.

THE CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Let the People Praise Thee (Mathias), Ven E J G Ward.

ROYAL HOSPITAL, Chelsea, SW3: 11 M, Blessed Birth (Walford Davies), Tria sunt munera (Esquivel), Fugue on Bach (Merkel), The Chaplain.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Te Deum (Stanford in B flat), Lo! star-led chiefs (Crotch), Preb J Gaskell.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, Quem pastores (Rutter), The Three Kings (Cornelius), The Chaplain.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, The sinless one to Jordan came (Angers Melody), Te Deum, Omnes de Saba venient (Handel), The Chaplain; 12 HC (said).

TOWER OF LONDON, EC3: 11 M & Sermon, Responses (Gibbons & Barnard), Gibbons Short Service, Jubilate (Chant), See, the Word is Incarnate (Gibbons).

TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street, EC4: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Omnes de Saba venient (Handl), Responses (Thalben-Ball), Te Deum Laudamus (Mathias in C), Jubilate Deo (Dyson in D), The Master.

ST CLEMENT DANES (RAF Church) WC2: 9 HC & 12.15; 11 M, Rev D MacKenzie.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Collegium Regale (Howells), From the rising (Ouseley); 3.30 E, Laudate nomen domini (Tye), Watson in E, O God who by the leading of a star (Attwood).

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER: 11 S Euch, Rev Canon S Van Culin.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8 & 5.15 LM; 11 HM, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Videntes stellam (Poulenc), Rev P McGeary; 6 E & B, Wood in F, Videntes stellam (Palestrina), The Vicar.

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, Cheyne Walk, SW3: 8 & 12 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M, Preb C E L Thomson; 6 E, Preb C E L Thomson.

CHRIST CHURCH, CHELSEA, SW3: 11 S Euch, Rev S Watson.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Ave Maria Stella (Victoria), Tribus Miraculis (Marenzio), Offertoire (Couperin), Rev A W Marks.

HOLY TRINITY, Brompton Road, SW7: 10.30 Family & HC, Rev J Moore; 6.30 Informal Service, Rev J Moore.

HOLY TRINITY, Prince Consort Road, SW7: 8.30 & 12.05 HC; 11 MP, Rev Dr M Israel.

HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street, SW1: 8.30, 12.10 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Rev K Yates.

ST ALBAN'S, Brooke St, EC1: 9.30 SM; 11 HM, Missa O magnum mysterium (Victoria), Rev K Morris; 5.30 LM.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 M, The Rector; 6.30 E, The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Jubilate (Stanford in B flat), Robinson in C, Panis Angelicus (Franck), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Kelly in C, Lo, star-led chiefs (Crotch), Say, where is he born (Mendelssohn), Canon J Oates.

ST CUTHBERT'S, Philbeach Gardens SW5: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Darke in A minor, O worship the Lord (Travers), Rev J Vine.

ST GEORGE'S, Bloomsbury, WC1: 10 Euch; 6.30 EP, Fr M Day.

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Batten Short Service, A. Omnes de Saba venient (Handl), The Rector.

ST GILES-IN-THE-FIELDS, St Giles High St, WC2: 8 & 12 HC; 11 MP; 6.30 EP.

ST JAMES'S, Muswell Hill, N10: 8 HC; 10.30 HC, Rev G Williams; 6.30 EP, Preb M Bunker.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Penelope Eckersley; 5.45 EP.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Messa di Gloria (Puccini), King Herod and the Cock (Walton), Rev G Buckle; 6 Choral E, Noble in B minor, Lo! star-led chiefs (Crotch), The Vicar.

ST JOHN'S, Hyde Park Crescent, W2: 8 HC (said), 10 Parish Communion, Mrs Jill Carman; 6.30 ES, Rev O Ross.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, Holland Rd, W14: 10 Mass (Latin), 11 SM; 6 V & B.

ST JOHN'S WOOD CHURCH, NW8: 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Communion; 11 S Euch, Schubert in C, Rev D Frith.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 MP & HC, Rev D Watson, Darke in F, The three Kings (Cornelius); 6.30 Choral E, Stanford in C, Look up sweet babe (Berkeley), Mr S Cade.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 10 Family HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Sancta Joannis de Deo (Haydn), Lo, star-led chiefs (Crotch), Rev K White.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 Choral M, Responses (Clucas), Three Kings come on the twelfth day (Kellam), Rev P Chester; 12.15 HC.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Very Rev G Henwood; 11.30 Visitors to London Service, Rev M Henwood; 2.45 Chinese E; 6.30 ES, Very Rev G Henwood.

ST MARY ABBOTS, Kensington, W8: 8 & 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, The Vicar; 11.15 M, The Vicar; 6.30 E, Mr N Pain.

ST MARY'S, Primrose Hill, NW3: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Rev L Van der Pump.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Assumpta est Maria (Palestrina), O Magnum Mysterium (Victoria), The Rector; 6.30 EP.

ST MARY-LE-STRAND (WRNS Church), Strand WC2: 11 S Communion, Rev E Thompson.

ST MICHAEL'S, Chester Square, SW1: 8.15 & 11 HC; 7 Informal ES at Grey Coat Hospital School, Graham Terrace, SW1 and at St James the Less Church, Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1 (HC).

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: 11 Choral M, Responses (Morley), Sing Lullaby (Howells), Te Deum & Jubilate (Boyce in C), Lo! star-led chiefs (Crotch); 12 HC.

ST PAUL'S, Onslow Square, SW7: 10.30 Family HC; 6.30 Informal Service.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8 & 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Missa Brevis in F (Haydn), Rt Rev S Phipps.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Mass; 11 SM, Missa Aspice Domine (Palestrina), Reges Tharsis (Sheppard), Fr D Tillyer.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner Street, SW3: 8 HC; 11 MP, I will give thanks (Purcell), The Heavens are telling (Haydn), 6.30 E, Rev G James.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8 & 9 LM; 11 SM, Missa Brevis in B flat (Mozart), Ave Verum (Mozart), Bishop of London; 6 EP & B.

ST VEDAST, Foster Lane, EC2: 11 Sung Mass, Rev R Avent.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11, Rev W A Cairns; 6.30, Rev John H McIndoe

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 & 6.30 Rev H Stanley C Hood.

CHURCH OF OUR LADY, Lisson Grove, St John's Wood: 10.45, Missa Qual e piu grande amor (Palestrina), Gloria in excelsis (Nanini).

CHURCH OF OUR MOST HOLY REDEEMER, Cheyne Row, SW3: 10, 11, 12.15, 6.30, Fr P Nolan.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM, Missa Caca (Morales), Ego sum panis (Esquivel), Jesu dulcis memoria (Vittoria).

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina), Quem vidistis pastores (Victoria), 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B, Sicut cervus (Palestrina).

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 Sung Mass, Mass in D (Kitson), Ave Jesu Christe (Philips), Fugue on Bach (Schumann).

ST MARY'S, Cadogan Street, SW3: Mass 8.30, 10, 11, Mass for four voices (Heredia), Cantemus Domine (Brunetti), Bone Pastor (Tallis), 12.15, 6.30.

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES, Kensington High Street, W8: 6.30 LM (Sat); 8.30, 10, 12.30, 6.30 LM; 11.15 SM (Latin).

AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, Tottenham Court Rd, W1: 9.45 Sunday School; 11 Worship, Rev R Allison.

CITY TEMPLE, Holborn, EC1: 10.30, Rev J Hall.

CHELSEA METHODIST CHURCH, King's Road, SW3: 11, Rev Dr G Lovell; 6 HC, Rev M Braddy.

HINDE STREET METHODIST CHURCH, W1: 11, Rev P Hoar & Rev B McCrorie; 6.30, Rev M Rodwell.

KENSINGTON TEMPLE, (Charismatic), Notting Hill Gate, W11: 9, 11, 2.30, 6.30 & 9.

KENSINGTON URC, Allen Street, W8: 11, Rev P Lovell. There is no evening service.

REGENT SQUARE URC (Presbyterian-Congregational), Tavistock Place, WC1: 11, Rev Dr R Scopes; 5.30, Mrs P Crawshaw.

SALVATION ARMY (Regent Hall), Oxford St W1: 11 & 6.30 Major C Hunt.

ST ANDREW'S URC, Frognal Lane NW3: 11 Rev Dr P Morgan.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev W D Swanson; 7 Choral Vespers, Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern (Buxtehude), Luke-Book Lullaby, Rev H Pettersson.

ST JOHN'S WOOD URC, NW8: 11 MS, Rev A McLellan.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Rev P Hulme.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11 & 6.30, Rev J W Harris.

WESTMINSTER CHAPEL, Buckingham Gate, SW1: 11 & 6.30 Rev Dr R T Kendall.

WESTMINSTER MEETING SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), 52 St Martins La WC2: 11, Meeting for worship.

Church news

Clergy appointments

The Rev Canon Anthony J Abbey, Vicar, St John, Epping: to be Priest-in-Charge, Doddinghurst (Chelmsford).

The Rev Brian A Boucher, formerly Vicar, Holy Redeemer, Clerkenwell (London): to be Chaplain, Hurstpierpoint College (Chichester).

The Rev Christopher J Dobson, Curate, St Mark, Biggin Hill: to be Curate, St James, Tunbridge Wells (Rochester).

The Rev Peter M Down, Team Vicar, Heath Hayes in the Cannock Team Ministry (Lichfield): to be Rector, Coleford with Holcombe (Bath and Wells).

The Rev Robin Eastoe, Vicar, St Francis, Barkingside: to be Vicar, St Margaret, Leigh-on-Sea (Chelmsford).

The Rev Christopher P Edmondson, Priest-in-Charge, Bampton with Mardale and Diocesan Officer for Evangelism (Carlisle): to be Vicar, Shipley St Peter (Bradford).

The Rev P Richard Payn, Vicar, Christ Church, Lowestoft (Norwich): to be Priest-in-Charge, St Peter, Tunbridge Wells (Rochester).

The Rev Michael F Taylor, Rector, Lyng, Sparham, Elsing and Bylaugh: to be also Rural Dean of Sparham (Norwich).

The Rev Elizabeth M Toller, to be Chaplain, Little Plumstead Hospital (Norwich).

The Rev Penny West, Curate, Portishead: to be Curate, Bath Abbey (Bath and Wells).

The Rev Anthony J Willis, Rector, Salwarpe and Hindlip with Martin Hussingtree: to be full-time Chaplain of Agriculture and Rural Life (Worcester).

The Rev Paul D Wood, formerly of St John's, Launceston, Tasmania: to be Team Vicar, St Leonard's, Langley Green (Chichester).

Retirements

The Rev Canon Arthur J Gardiner, Chaplain to the Society of St Margaret, East Grinstead (Chichester): retired as from 16 December 1991.

The Rev Arthur E Green, Rector, Neatishead, Barton Turf and Irstead (Norwich): to retire on April 30, 1992.

JAN 11

ON THIS DAY

1861

This description of skating in Hyde Park carries an almost Dickensian flavour. The "icemen" of the Royal Humane Society were kept busy, for some had to be on duty early in the morning to ensure that safety of bathers in a stretch of water kept specially for them.

THE WEATHER AND THE PARKS

The dense fog that prevailed during the greater part of yesterday considerably thinned the concourse which now daily resorts to the metropolitan parks to enjoy the invigorating exercises of skating and sliding. During the forenoon, indeed, the fog was too mild to interfere seriously with those recreations, but at 2 o'clock it greatly increased in density, and soon enveloped the earth in that sickly yellow pall which turns the unhappy Londoners' day into the murkiest night, and half stifles him with its noxious vapour.

The sudden darkness drove thousands from the ice who could not obtain at so early an hour those artificial means of illumination which had been stored up by many a provident "link merchant" for the lively demand of the evening. The fog remained at its worst for about an hour and a half, and, having somewhat cleared by 4 o'clock, it thence continued in a modified form till close upon midnight. The thermometer was also low all day. At 9am the mercury stood at 19; at noon it did not rise above 20; at 8pm it had dropped again to 19; with every indication of sinking much further. But, if the sky was much obscured during the days, the condition of the ice was admirable.

In Hyde Park it was in many parts 11 inches thick, with only a few unsound spots towards the east end of the Serpentine, against which the public were duly warned by the danger signals of the Humane Society. Upwards of 6,000 skaters and sliders assembled on the Serpentine during the day, and both banks were lined with innumerable spectators of both sexes. But here the sport does not really begin till the evening, when thousands upon thousands who have been engaged in business avocations all day are seen coming from all quarters, bent on obtaining from an exhilarating pastime that healthful warmth which genial stoves and firesides, invaluable as they are to all who are blessed with them at this trying season, wholly fail to afford.

The animated and exciting spectacle which Hyde Park has presented for several evenings past was last night, shorn of not a little of its brilliancy. Nevertheless, the scene was truly gay and novel. The shores and frozen surfaces of the Serpentine exhibited all the characteristics of a torchlight winter *fête*. Music, dancing, fireworks, stalls, booths, tents, Chinese lanterns, enterprising vendors of coffee, elder wine, spiced ale, and every other conceivable species of seasonable refreshment, vociferous linkboys, adventurous skaters, and sliders, all made up an *ensemble* which must be seen to be even faintly appreciated.

Countless parties of intrepid skaters could be dimly descried through the foggy atmosphere, the boldest of their number, with flaming torch in hand, acting as pioneers to the rest, and going through the most amazing evolutions; while ever and anon a dull "thud", followed by a loud guffaw from groups of jocund bystanders, told that some luckless wight had lost his equilibrium and come to sudden grief. Happily, however, no limb was fractured or other serious hurt sustained. The concourse, with its incessant din and bustle, hourly augmented till about 9 o'clock, and the fun and frolic was protracted far into the night.

Forgive your neighbour any wrong he has done you; then, when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
Ecclesiasticus 28:2 REB

BIRTHS

CHAPLIN - On January 7th, to William and Tracey, a son, William Harry.

DORMON - On January 7th 1992, at Royal Surrey Hospital, Guildford, to Alison and Alan, a daughter, Ella Katherine May, a sister for Mark and Sam.

EASBY - On January 3rd, to Diane (née Kitching) and Graham, a daughter, Olivia Calvert May.

FARMER - On December 22nd, in Zurich, to Helen (nee Pooley) and Pete, a second son, Gabriel Thomas.

FREDERICK - On December 29th, in Bath, to Camilla (née Gilbey) and Christopher, a son, Benjamin St John.

GREENBURGH - On December 31st 1991, to Helen and Matthew, a son, Oliver

JOHNSTON - On January 4th, to Julia and Richard, a daughter, Hannah Lily, a sister for William.

McCORMICK - On January 7th 1992, to Jan (née Henderson) and John, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, a daughter, Sophie Madeleine.

McVITIE - On December 21st 1991, at Portsmouth, to Juliet (née Crawford) and Doug, a daughter, Mollie Elisabeth Thérèse.

MORGAN - On January 2nd 1992, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Julia (née Davies) and Charles, a son, Alexander William Thomas.

POOL - On January 6th 1992, at Halifax General Hospital, to Alison and Richard, a daughter, Clementine Daisy Anwen, a sister for William.

REED HARDING - On January 8th 1992, to Lucinda and David, a son, Joshua Samuel.

SHARMAN - On January 4th 1992, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Martine and Nigel, a daughter, Martine Jeanne, a sister for Nathalie.

SILVA - On January 4th 1992, to Toots and Mahendra, a son, Oliver Nimal.

TROESCH - On January 9th 1992, in Singapore, to Milena (née Salgado da Silveira) and Mathias Karl, a son, Shan Maximilian, brother to Samantha Caroline.

TUKE - On January 8th, to Veronica (née Gadsby) and Simon, a son Harry Thomas.

TYLER - On January 8th 1992, at Guy's Hospital, to Merran (née Cheong) and Malcolm George, a daughter, Sarah Catherine.

WALDOCK - On December 27th 1991, to Rachael and Patrick, a wonderful son, Benjamin David.

WALKER - On December 30th 1991, at Queen Marys's, Sidcup, to Claire (née Cooper) and Mark, a daughter, Jessica Meg.

WAREHAM - On January 4th 1992, to Buffy (née Barnett) and Quintin, a son, Thomas Oscar, a brother for Edward, George and Henry.

MARRIAGES

GLAVES:STEPHENSON - Robert Lewis Glaves and Pamela Ann Stephenson at Southsea, Hants., on Friday 10th January.

DEATHS

AUSTEN - On January 9th 1992, peacefully, Isobel, former Headmistress Hampton Court Palace School, loved by Patrick and Jacqueline, peace at last. Funeral private. *Family flowers only.*

BAGSTER - On January 8th, after a short illness, Eunice Beatrice, aged 89, of Elstead, Surrey, much loved aunt of Andrew and Anthony Millett and their families. Cremation 11.30 am at Guildford Crematorium on Thursday January 16th followed by a Thanksgiving Service at Elstead Parish Church at 2pm. Family flowers only preferred, any donations to Phyllis Tuckwell Memorial Hospice, Farnham.

BARKER - On January 8th, suddenly, William Barker K.C.M.G., O.B.E., darling husband of Margaret, beloved father of Eve and Bill, and devoted grandad of Andrew, Clare, Catherine and Elizabeth. Requiem Mass at 10.15 am on Wednesday January 15th at St Thomas' R.C. Church, St John's Street, Woodbridge, followed by private cremation. No flowers by request but donations, if so desired, to charity of choice.

BENN - On January 9th, peacefully at home, Jennifer Sarah (née Day), beloved wife of Nigel and mother of Anna and Sebastian. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving at Chevithorne Church, Tiverton, Devon, on Friday January 24th at 2.30pm. No flowers please but donations in lieu may be sent to Tidcombe Hall Marie Curie Centre, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 4EJ.

BRADBEER - On January 9th, peacefully at Overstone, Hexham, William Bertram, aged 90 years. Father of Derek and Ronald. Funeral Service at 10.30 am on Saturday January 18th 1992 at St John Lee Church, Hexham, followed by private cremation. No letters please. Flowers to John Bardgett & Sons Ltd., Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

DEATHS

BRADLEY - On January 8th 1992, Thomas Henry Bradley C.Eng., aged 78 years, of Mylor Bridge, Cornwall, late of Reading University. Funeral at Mylor Parish Church on Thursday January 16th at 11 am. Donations for the R.N.M.D.S.F. to the Funeral Director, Kingsley Tresidder, Fernlea, Kennall Vale, Ponsanooth, Truro, Cornwall. (0872) 863607

COOPER - On Thursday January 9th, Beatrice Patience Gwendoline, recent widow of Eric, peacefully at Michael Sobell House, Mount Vernon Hospital, late of Radlett. Held in great affection by her nieces and nephew - Penny, Peter, Lorraine and Caroline. Cremation on Friday January 17th at West Herts Crematorium at 11.30 am. Family flowers only but donations if desired (cheques only) to League of Friends of Michael Sobell House c/o C.A. Nethercott & Son, 20 Aldenham Road, Radlett, Herts., tel: (0923) 852899.

FISHER - On January 9th 1992, Eileen Elisabeth Hammond, aged 91, after a long illness very bravely borne, at Bay Court Nursing Home, Budleigh Salterton. Much loved by her godson and her friends. Cremation at St Peter's Chapel, Exeter and Devon Crematorium, on Wednesday January 15th at 3 pm. Family flowers only.

JENNER - On January 8th, peacefully in a Bristol nursing home, Mary Margaret, late of Victoria SW1. Private cremation.

LANG - On January 6th, suddenly in Bristol, Edith Mary, aged 75 years. Widow of John, dearly loved mother of Bruce, Stewart, Janet, Sheila, Alisa, Heather and adored grandmother of Alexander, Joanne, Fiona, Iona, Andrew, Benjamin, Robert, Alexis and Zoë. Funeral Service at Trinity United Reformed Church, Cranbrook Road, Redland, Bristol, on Wednesday January 15th at 2 pm, followed by cremation. Family flowers only please, but donations welcome to The Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children, c/o General Office, St Michael's Hill, Bristol, BS2 8BJ.

LINDUP - On Tuesday January 7th 1992, David, 63, in hospital. Funeral January 17th at 11 am at St Laurence Catholic Church, Petersfield. Funeral private. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to St Mary's Hospital Portsmouth Intensive Care Unit or Cardio-Thoracic Intensive Care Unit at Southampton General Hospital.

LOVEYS - On January 9th, peacefully at The Hollies Nursing Home, Burghfield Common, Barbara Tristram Ellis, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at 2 pm on Thursday January 16th at St Andrew's Church, Sherborne St John, followed by burial at St Mary's Church, Herriard. No flowers please, but donations to St Andrew's Church, Sherborne St John.

MOORE - On January 8th 1992, Henry Dendy, M.C., F.R.C.S., beloved husband of Jacqueline, father and grandfather. Funeral Service at The Blessed Sacrament, Exeter, on Wednesday January 15th at 10 am, followed by interment at Higher Cemetery. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired for The Parkinsons Disease Society may be sent to Le Roy Funeral Service, 10 Alphington Road, St Thomas, Exeter, tel: (0392) 55535.

OLIVIER - On January 7th, after a short illness, at home, in Compton Chamberlayne, Ela Mercy Valentina (Jane) Olivier: Much loved mother of Sarah-Jane Booth and grandmother of Sophie and Harriet. Managing Director of Jane Olivier Publicity. Small funeral service at St Michael's, Compton Chamberlayne, nr Salisbury, on Friday January 17th at 3pm. There will be a Memorial Service in London in February. Flowers or donations to NABS c/o Will Case & Partners Funeral Directors, 22 Churchfields Road, Salisbury, tel: (0722) 414521.

PRIDE - On January 8th, peacefully, Frederick Arthur, at Bracken Lodge Nursing Home, Southbourne, Dorset, aged 87 years. Late of Abinger Hammer, Surrey. Much loved father of Margaret, Leslie and David. Service at Bournemouth East Cemetery Friday January 17th 2 pm. Family flowers, donations to Wycliffe Bible Translators, c/o Miller & Butler, Bargates, Christchurch, Dorset.

RUTTER - On January 6th, Allen G. of Burwash, Sussex, much missed by all the family. Private cremation at Woking Crematorium on January 18th. No flowers please, but donations if desired to Save the Children Fund, c/o Farnham Funeral Service, 100 Shortheath Road, Farnham, tel: (0252) 711444.

SIMMS - On January 2nd, tragically, Nicholas Digby, aged 45 years, much loved husband of Lukie and father of Freya, Christopher and Charlotte. Funeral Service at Briston Church, today at 12 noon. Family flowers only please but donations, if wished, to The Norfolk Naturalists Trust, c/o Lloyd Durham, 11A Avenue Road, High Kelling, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6RD

DEATHS

STEWART SANDEMAN - On January 8th, peacefully at Sherborne after a short illness, George Roland, aged 75 Beloved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral Service Tuesday January 14th at 11 am in Sherborne Abbey Donations, if desired, to R.N.L.I.

SWINSCOE - On January 7th 1992, peacefully in hospital, Ray Katrina, of Dore, Sheffield Dearly beloved wife of Frederick and loving mother of Jordan and Charlotte Sadly missed

TORDOFF - On January 10th 1992, Maurice, Chief Executive and General Secretary of the Society of Dyers and Colourists.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HENDERSON - A Service of Thanksgiving for Andrew Brodie will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Brompton, at 3 pm on Wednesday January 29th.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BUSSWELL - D W.. December 1980 In fondest memory of father who died in Lisbon, Portugal. Patricia.

ADOPTIONS

MARSHALL - Pete, Sue, Christopher, Victoria and Lucy announce the addition to the family of Katie, Raymond and Gavin on January 10th 1992.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ELECTRICITY SYSTEM INDUSTRY LTD (ESI)
NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT A COMBINED CYCLE GAS TURBINE POWER STATION AT TRAFFORD IN GREATER MANCHESTER

Notice is hereby given that ESI ("the Company") has applied under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 ("the Act") for the consent of the Secretary of State for Energy to construct and operate a combined cycle gas turbine power station at Trafford in Greater Manchester, and for a direction under section 90(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

The new station to be known as Trafford Power Station would have a capacity of approximately 680 Megawatts (MW) consisting of two 210 MW and one 260 MW modules.

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, together with a copy of the Environmental Statement discussing the Company's proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, are available for inspection during normal office hours at the following addresses: Trafford Borough Council, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford M32 0YX Greater Manchester. ESI Ltd Premier House, 10 Greycoat Place, London SW1P 1SB

In addition, copies of the Environmental Statement may be obtained at a cost of £55.00 from Premier House while stocks last.

Any objections should be made in writing to the Secretary of State for Energy, Electricity Division, Room 3.3.6, 1 Palace Street, Victoria, London SW1E 5HE, stating the name of the station and the grounds of objection, not later than the 17th of February 1992.
9th January 1992

LEGAL NOTICES

COMPANY NO: 1222782
REGISTERED IN: ENGLAND
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
AND
IN THE MATTER OF LONDON LIVINGSTONE LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at 78 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8JA on 16 January 1992 at 10.30 a.m. for the purpose mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act. A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected free of charge at 78 Hatton Garden, London, EC1N 8JA between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm on 14 January 1992 and 15 January 1992.

Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must (unless they are individual creditors attending in person) lodge their proxies at the offices of Pannell Kerr Forster, 78 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8JA no later than 12.00 noon on 15 January 1992. Please note that the original proxy signed by or on behalf of the creditor must be lodged at the address mentioned; photocopies (including faxed copies) are not acceptable. Creditors must submit a proof of debt before voting and, unless they surrender their security, secured creditors must give particulars of their security and its value.

Dated this 18th day December 1991
By order of the Board
T Jones, Director

LEGAL NOTICES

Dennis W. Lopes, Attorney for Petitioner 38 North Pennsylvania Street, Suite 417 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 (317) 236-6860
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF MARION COUNTY INDIANA DOCKET NO 49D08-9112 AD000548 IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF KATHRYN ELIZABETH COOPER

Paul Francis Howard Wheeler is hereby notified that on the day of Dec 27 1991, Gordon Lee Eichison filed in the office of the Clerk of the Probate Court of Marion County, in the State of Indiana, a Petition to adopt Kathryn Elizabeth Cooper, a minor child of whom Paul Francis Howard Wheeler is a parent, which Petition alleges that Paul Francis Howard Wheeler has abandoned and deserted said child. On said date, the Petitioner also filed his praecipe for summons along with supporting affidavits showing that diligent search has been made and that Paul Francis Howard Wheeler cannot be found.

Paul Francis Howard Wheeler is further notified that unless he responds within thirty (30) days after the last publication of notice of this action, said Petition will be heard and determined by the Court in his absence
Faye Mowery
CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF MARION COUNTY

IN THE MARION COUNTY PROBATE COURT STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION SS: ADOPTION DOCKET NO 49D08-9112 AD00548
Filed Dec 27 1991
IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF KATHRYN ELIZABETH COOPER
SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION PRAECIPE FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION TO THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF MARION COUNTY.

A Petition for Adoption having been filed in the above entitled cause, issuance of summons by publication pursuant to the attached affidavits is requested
Gordon Lee Eichison
BY Dennis W Lopes
Attorney for Petitioner

No 0012708 of 1991
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF SALAMANDER PROPERTY GROUP LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 16th December 1991 confirming the reduction of the sum standing to the credit of the Capital Redemption Reserve of the above-named Company by £4,000,000 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 24th December 1991
DATED this 8th day of January 1992
Alsop Wilkinson of 6 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2SS (Ref NWS) Solicitors for the above named Company

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified, after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

BROOKER, COLIN STUART of 16 Winston Crescent East-bourne, East Sussex died on 19th August 1991 Particulars to Peters & Peters Solicitors of 2 Harewood Place Hanover Square London W1R 9HB before 12th March 1992.

CHADFIELD, GEORGE of 44 Lubenham Hill, Market Harborough Leicestershire died on 18-7-91 Particulars to Philip J Hammond & Sons Solicitors of 47 Friar Lane, Leicester before 27th March 1992.

GARLAND, ELIZABETH MARY of Flat 14 Ada Court Maida Vale, London W9 died on 6th May 1989 Particulars to Philip J Hammond & Sons Solicitors of 47 Friar Lane Leicester LE1 5QX before 27th March 1992.

HILLYER MARGARET HELENA of 51 Priory Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hampshire died on 13th February 1918 Particulars to Donne Mileham & Haddock Solicitors of 42/46 Frederick Place, Brighton BN1 1AT before 12th March 1992

HOWE, AMY WINIFRED of 42 Glen Park Avenue, Glenfield, Leics died on 21st December 1991, Particulars to Philip J Hammond & Sons Solicitors of 47 Friar Lane, Leicester before 27th March 1992

MAHONY, MONICA MATILDA of Nazareth House, 162 East End Road, Finchley, London N2 died on 4th December 1988 Particulars to Philip J Hammond & Sons Solicitors of 47 Friar Lane Leicester before 27th March 1992

OAKES Alice Jane of 23 High Street, Ledbury in the County of Hereford & Worcester Description: Sole proprietor of Larks & Genia Outfitters Died 26th September 1991 Particulars to Messrs R & C B MASEFIELD Solicitors of Worcester Road, Ledbury, Hereford & Worcester HR8 1PN Names of Executors William Herbert Masefield & Doris Diana Curry before 1st April 1992

ROSE, MATTHEW of 18 Windermere Hall, Stonegrove, Edgware Middlesex died on 27th June 1991 Particulars to Peters & Peters Solicitors of 2 Harewood Place, Hanover Square London W1R 9HB before 12th March 1992.

SEABRIDGE, JOHN LEONARD of 62A Highbury Hill, London N5 1AP died on 13th November 1991 Particulars to Carter Lemon Solicitors of 11 Breams Buildings London EC4A 1HB before 12th March 1992

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 16

SASSABY

(a) The Bastard Hartebeest of SA, *Alcelaphus lunata*, from the Sechwana *tsessébe*: "They consider it as a kindred spirit with the bartebeest of the colonists. The Botswanas call it sassaby."

LIPOSUCTION

(c) A technique used in cosmetic surgery in which particles of excess fat beneath the skin are loosened and then sucked out with a vacuum pump through a tube or cannula inserted into a small incision, from the Greek *lipos* fat + suction.

UMIAK

(a) An open skin boat, manned by women, from the Eskimo: "In Greenland, the umiak is the boat worked exclusively by the women, as the kayak is by the men."

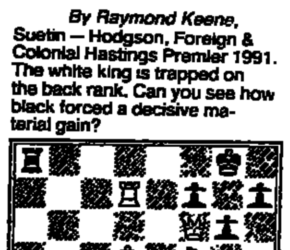
CUNJEVOI

(c) The ascidian or sea-squirt, *Pyura praeputialis*, occurring on intertidal rocks in S Australia, the flesh of which is used as bait, from a NSW Aboriginal language: "If the cungeboy [sic] isn't a lower form of animal life, the barnacle is a melon plant, or I'm an onion."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene,

Suetin — Hodgson, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier 1991. The white king is trapped on the back rank. Can you see how black forced a decisive material gain?



Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Batsford chess book. The answer and the winners will be printed next Saturday.

Solution (Jan 4): 1 ... Qh3+.

The winners are: E. Hamilton, London SE15; Dr S.R. Brooks, Greensted; J.G. Morgan, Peterhead.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2685

ACROSS
- 1 As well (4)
- 3 Weighing balance (6)
- 8 Financial control (11)
- 10 Snow slider (3)
- 11 Long forearm bones (5)
- 12 Shy (7)
- 14 Contend (3)
- 15 Reduction (3)
- 16 Children's room (7)
- 17 Flower calyx part (5)
- 19 Local (3)
- 22 Looking around (11)
- 23 Calm, serene (6)
- 24 Groove (4)

DOWN
- 1 Attribute (7)
- 2 Spirit (4)
- 4 Shake violently (8)
- 5 Stock up (3,2)
- 6 Issue (7)
- 7 Exam success (4)
- 9 Retaliation (3,3,3)
- 13 Solar exposure (8)
- 14 Evensong (7)
- 15 Greek/Turkish islander (7)
- 18 Struck attitude (5)
- 20 Coach wheels group (4)
- 21 Fondle (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 2684

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BBC 1

7.25 News and weather (2002188)

7.30 Crystal Tipps and Alistair. Cartoon (r) (4821411) **7.35 Wiz Bang** (9383121) **7.45 The Jetsons.** Space-age cartoon (r) (8870508) **8.05 Eggs 'n 'Baker.** Cheryl Baker mixes some nightmarish ingredients (s) (7101614) **8.35 Thundercats.** Cartoon (r) (2724072)

9.00 Going Live! The guests include television action-girl Anneka Rice, Mamta Kaash and Cathy Shipton of BBC's hospital drama *Casualty*, and vet Nigel Taylor. Phillip Schofield prepares for his role in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and there is the regular cartoon slot (s) (70314527) **12.12 Weather** (5782362)

12.15 Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider (90234633). The line-up is (subject to alteration): **12.20, 1.05 Cricket and Football.** New Zealand v England in the first one-day international from Auckland. Plus a review of the third round of the FA Cup; **12.45, 1.20, 1.55 Racing** from Ascot: **(12.50)** Philip Cornes Novices' Hurdle; **(1.25)** Grosvenor Insurance Chase; **(2.00)** Victor Chandler Handicap Chase, and from Leopardstown at **(2.15)** Ladbroke Handicap Hurdle; **1.00 News. 1.35, 2.25 Table Tennis.** The English Open from the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham; **2.55 Rugby League.** Final of the Regal Trophy between Leeds and St Helens or Widnes, from Central Park, Wigan; **3.45 Football Half-Times**; **4.35 Final Score**

5.05 News and weather (1850633) **5.15 Regional News** and sport (7115275). Wales: Wales on Saturday

5.20 One To Win. Three contestants compete for the holiday of a lifetime. Hosted by Andrew O'Connor. (Ceefax) (s) (7938188)

5.50 Noel's House Party. Noel Edmonds with another resistible mix of games and embarrassing moments. The guest is actor Don Henderson of *The Paradise Club* (s) (148695)

6.40 Big Break. Jim Davidson hosts the green baize general knowledge quiz show in which top snooker players play on behalf of contestants. (Ceefax) (s) (350072)

Amazing what you can do with Maltezers: Paul Daniels (7.10pm)

7.10 The Paul Daniels Magic Show. The chirpy magician returns for a new series of tricks and illusions, assisted by son Martin and wife Debbie McGee. (Ceefax) (s) (696237)

7.55 Moon and Son: The Star of Fortune. Lighthearted thriller series with an astrological flavour. Gladys Moon (Millicent Martin) and her son, Trevor (John Michie) are asked by the police to help solve a series of murders in Kent. (Ceefax) (s) (110492)

8.50 News and sport. Weather (493091)

9.10 That's Life! Esther Rantzen and team are back with a new series of investigations, humour and real-life stories, and launch their search for a singing star. (Ceefax) (639459)

9.50 Midnight Caller: Burned Beyond Recognition. The return of the polished American drama series starring Gary Cole as Jack Killian, a late-night radio talk show host. Killian agrees to be the "prize" at a university charity auction (s) (584701)

10.40 Film: Marathon Man (1976). John Schlesinger's glossy, violent and complicated thriller, adapted from his novel by William Goldman. In Paris, American agent Roy Schneider survives two assassination attempts. Back in New York, his brother (Dustin Hoffman) finds himself involved in a cat-and-mouse game with an infamous Nazi known as the White Angel (Laurence Olivier). (Ceefax) (88433633)

12.40am Weather (6878299)

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BBC 2

8.45 Open University (12218701): Science Preparatory Maths — Algebra; **9.00** An Introduction to Psychology — Autism; **9.25** Open Advice — Becoming a Student; **9.50** Walk Softly on the Earth; **10.15** Small Business — Fair Trading; **10.40** Open Advice — Learning to Learn

11.05 I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing. Voice coach Ian Adam explains how to sing through a cold, and how to sing a comic song (r) (8874898)

11.45 Film: The Shooting (1966). Intense, offbeat western about a former bounty hunter who goes in search of his missing twin brother who has disappeared under suspicious circumstances. Starring Warren Oates, Will Hutchins, Jack Nicholson and Millie Perkins. Directed by Monte Hellman (2803140)

1.00 Heirs and Graces. Lady Victoria Leatham visits Broughton Castle in Oxfordshire (r) (62237)

1.30 Network East. Shyama Perera talks to the Bangladesh singer Runa Laila, actor Salman Khan and ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas (23463)

2.00 Mahabharat. In Hindi with English subtitles (702459)

3.40 Film: Henry V (1944). Laurence Olivier stars in and directs this rousing adaptation of Shakespeare's play, designed to draw parallels with Britain's contemporary struggle against Nazi Germany. With Robert Newton, Leslie Banks and Esmond Knight (1952256)

4.55 Darts. Eamonn Holmes introduces the final of the Embassy World Championship from the Lakeside Country Club in Surrey (s) (49580985)

6.30 Crufts '92: Toys, Utilities and Gundogs. Angela Rippon and Peter Purves introduce the first three classes, five from the NEC in Birmingham, with the latest results from the action events, and the Special Events ring (s) (368817)

7.05 News and sport with Moira Stuart. Weather (920140)

7.20 Tortelier Masterclass: Elgar Cello Concerto. The French cellist Paul Tortelier coaches Elizabeth Ramsay and Emma Ferrand, with pianist Geoffrey Pratley (r) (616091)

A taste of Berg: Kristine Ciesinksi and Norman Bailey (8.05pm)

8.05 The Secret Life of Alban Berg

● CHOICE: Viewers may wonder how Ken Russell managed to leave Alban Berg out of his series of composer biographies. Berg seems a perfect Russell subject, the outwardly respectable Viennese husband who fathered a child while a schoolboy and, despite protestations of faithfulness in hundreds of letters to his wife, had a long extra-marital affair. The main thrust of Kriss Rumanis's film is to show how many of the clues to Berg's "secret life" can be gleaned from his music. An obvious one is the obsession with the whore image in the operas *Wozzeck* and *Lulu*. Less obvious, but revealed by a dedicated American musicologist, are references to Berg's mistress in *Lulu* and the Violin Concerto. Rumanis casts the operatic soprano Kristine Ciesinski as a sleuth who follows the Berg trail from Vienna to Prague and Pennsylvania. *Wozzeck* is on BBC2 tomorrow (627633)

9.05 Moving Pictures talks to Joe Eszterhas, Hollywood's highest-paid screenwriter, whose films include *Flashdance* and *Jagged Edge*. Plus, the French director Bertrand Blier on his latest surreal comedy, *Merci la vie* (735072)

9.50 Film: Jagged Edge (1985). Slick suspense thriller starring Jeff Bridges as a man accused of murdering his wife, a San Francisco newspaper heiress. Glenn Close plays the attorney who agrees to defend Bridges on the condition that she is convinced of his innocence. Directed by Richard Marquand. (Ceefax) (s) (481986)

11.35 Darts World Championships. Eamonn Holmes introduces highlights of this afternoon's final (s) (846898). Ends at **12.40am**

ITV

6.00 TV-am (6767430)

9.25 Motormouth. The children's entertainment show launches a competition to star in pop group Take That's next video, and there is a chance to meet the ten-year-old star of the film *Curly Sue*. Plus cartoon fun with *Scooby Doo* and *Beetlejuice*. Presented by Neil Buchanan, Andy Crane, Steve Johnson, Gaby Roslin (18683169)

11.30 The ITV Chart Show. The specialist chart is rock, and the vintage video slot is Nick Kershaw with "Wouldn't It Be Good" (s) (s) (98695)

12.30 The Munsters Today: Vampire Pie. Comedy with the monstrous American family. Herman (John Schuck) enters a cooking contest (73968)

1.00 ITN News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (39957546) **1.05 LWT News** (39956817)

1.10 Saint and Greavsie. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves present football highlights from the quarter finals of the Rumbelows League Cup, and introduce the draw for the semi finals, live in the studio (1321614) **1.55 The Day** (65442256)

2.00 Ski Tips. Andy Steggall and Penny Silvester examine the effects of the Winter Olympics on British holiday skiers (7324)

2.30 Cobblestones, Cottages and Castles: Transports of Delight. David Young and his dog Oliver continue their travels in the southwest of Britain (Oracle) (188)

3.00 Snooker: The Mercantile Credit Classic. Nick Owen introduces the final from the International Centre in Bournemouth (86393850)

4.45 Results Service with Elton Welsby (4167140)

5.00 ITN News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (7187492) **5.05 LWT News** (1845701)

5.15 Ten Sharp! Pat Sharp meets the boxer Nigel Benn. This week's video of the week is *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* (s) (1841985)

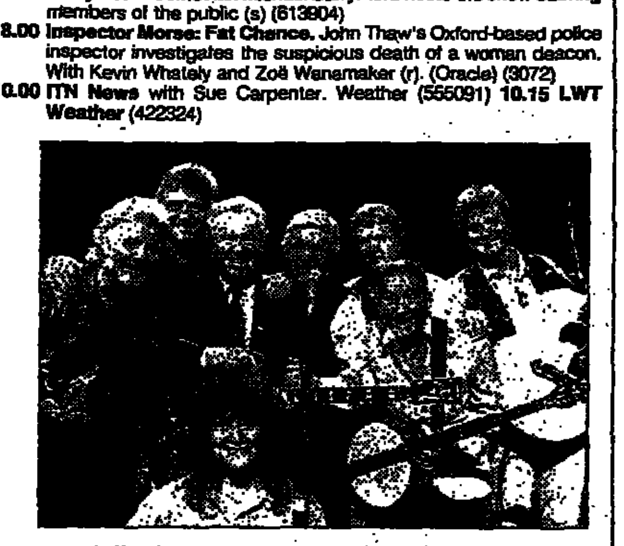
5.25 New Baywatch. Glamorous adventure series with the Los Angeles lifeguards. Starring David Hasselhoff. (Oracle) (7469459)

6.15 Blind Date. Cilla Black tries to match the guys 'n' gals (863879)

7.15 Barrymore. Comedian Michael Barrymore hosts the show starring members of the public (s) (613904)

8.00 Inspector Morse: Fat Chance. John Thaw's Oxford-based police inspector investigates the suspicious death of a woman deacon. With Kevin Whately and Zoë Wanamaker (r). (Oracle) (3072)

10.00 ITN News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (555091) **10.15 LWT Weather** (422324)



It's skiffle time: Lonnie Donegan and friends (10.20pm)

10.20 Trouble with the Fifties: Andy Pandy, The Goons

● CHOICE: Michael Aspel hosts a jolly, anecdotal retrospective of the 1950s helped by monochrome clips and a studio full of greying veterans from sport and showbusiness. The show has something of the flavour of Aspel's *This Is Your Life* with celebrities coming in on cue to offer their stories, whether it is Harry Secombe talking about *The Goon Show*, the Beverley Sisters on not being allowed to show their navels on television or Dinah Sheridan revealing that none of *Genevieve* was filmed between London and Brighton. In a more substantial contribution, Sylvia Syms discourses on deodorants and hair lacquer and there is a rousing skiffle finale from Lonnie Donegan and friends. Older viewers may be inclined to shed a nostalgic tear or two for those simple, wholesome days when everyone still knew their place. For the under-thirties it may seem as quaint and remote as the reign of Queen Victoria (1704427)

11.25 Snooker: The Mercantile Credit Classic. Nick Owen introduces the climactic action from Bournemouth (598614)

12.30am WCW Pro Wrestling (74096) **1.30 Get Stuffed** (7347096)

1.35 New Music (6726812) **2.30 Get Stuffed** (8781947)

2.40 Bhangra Beat. The Asian music programme (5415928)

3.10 Coach. American comedy series (86421589)

3.40 American College Football (5559251)

4.35 The Hit Man and Her (s) (59378)

5.30 ITN Morning News (22909). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Early Morning: Fantastic Four (1108966) **6.25 Dr Snuggles** (5231527) **6.55 Once Upon a Time . . . Space** (6541966) **7.25 Sporting Years to Remember** (2129966) **7.55 Trans World Sport** (1389527) **9.00 News Summary** (7969546) **9.15 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line** (7226237)

9.30 Woodbine Place. Children at play (r) (49966)

10.30 Wagon Train. Vintage 1950s western series (20343)

11.30 Kingdom of the Deep: Stranded on South Georgia. The plight of Cindy Buxton and Annie Price who were filming for *Survival* on South Georgia when the Argentinians invaded (r) (96237)

12.30 American Football — Red 42 (s) (97850)

1.00 Film: Young Man of Music (1950, b/w). The first of this afternoon's two musicals starring Doris Day is based on the jazz trumpeter Bix Beiderbecke (Kirk Douglas). With Lauren Bacall and Hoagy Carmichael. Directed by Michael Curtiz (70402492)

3.05 Film: By the Light of the Silvery Moon (1953). In this warmhearted comedy musical sequel to *On Moonlight Bay*, Doris Day's impending marriage to Gordon Macrae is marred by misunderstandings. Directed by David Butler (29722256)

5.00 For Your Pleasure. Animated ecological warning (7118362)

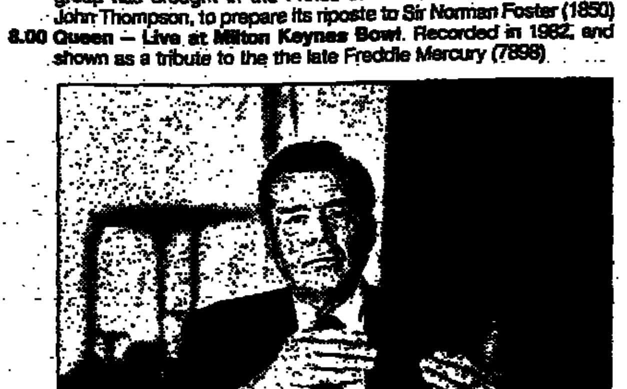
5.05 Brookside. Omnibus edition. (Teletext) (s) (1984633)

6.30 News summary (497237); **Right to Reply.** (Teletext) (s) (363546).

7.00 King's Cross — David and Goliath

● CHOICE: Around King's Cross station in London a 134 acre site, 55 times bigger than Trafalgar Square, is up for redevelopment. It is the biggest inner city project in Europe, incorporating a huge new terminal for trains from the Channel Tunnel. The landowner is British Rail, forced by its government remit to squeeze every penny out of its property deals. This means going for lucrative office space. A plan by the architect Sir Norman Foster envisages eight-storey blocks and two towers 20 feet higher than Blackpool Tower. Local people want none of this. They want affordable housing and a decent environment for the community. Sue Crockford's film is a grass roots view of a planning debate in which the conflicting interests are jostling to be heard. The local authority, which must approve any scheme, is sympathetic to the residents but cannot ignore financial reality. Meanwhile, an action group has brought in the Prince of Wales's favourite architect, John Thompson, to prepare its riposte to Sir Norman Foster (1850)

8.00 Queen — Live at Milton Keynes Bowl. Recorded in 1982, and shown as a tribute to the the late Freddie Mercury (7898)



An actor's life for him: Sir Dirk Bogarde reflects (9.00pm).

9.00 Dirk Bogarde: By Myself

● CHOICE: Paul Joyce, who last week treated us to a detailed portrait of the American director Sam Peckinpah, now turns to our new cinema knight. Joyce's approach with the dead Peckinpah was to invite associates to talk about him. With the happily very much alive Sir Dirk, he gets the subject to speak for himself, uninterrupted except for clips from the films. As might be expected it is an articulate, intelligent, generous and slightly self-mocking performance which ranges over the craft of film acting, the excesses of the studio system and the actor's decision to leave Britain at the end of the 1960s. The only reservation is that as with the Peckinpah documentary, a previous knowledge of the films is assumed. Joyce is not in the business of providing child's guides. There is a second instalment next week and a short Bogarde season starts after this programme. (Teletext) (7102)

10.00 Film: King and Country (1964, b/w). Powerful first world war drama starring Dirk Bogarde as a army officer assigned to defend deserter Tom Courtenay. Directed by Joseph Losey (676904)

11.40 One Night Stand: Kevin Meaney. The American comedian performs his stand-up routine (853508)

12.10am Film: Lola (1982). Rainer Werner Fassbinder's homage to *The Blue Angel* is set in post-war Germany and charts the relationship between a respectable building inspector (Armin Mueller-Stahl) and a nightclub dancer (Barbara Sukowa). In German with English subtitles (46200831)

2.15 American Football — Red 42 (r) (s) (11473)

2.45 The Word (r) (s) (9290367). Ends at **3.40**

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.00am Danger Bay (18035) 6.30 What A Country (82527) 7.00 Fun Factory (3448986) 11.00 Transformers (54895) 11.30 Star Trek (55324) 12.00 Beyond 2000 (54169) 1.00pm Combat (83817) 2.00 WWF Superstars Of Wrestling (74508) 3.00 Monkey (59140) 4.00 Man From Atlantis (9184) 5.00 Robin Of Sherwood (43053) 7.00 T.J. Hooker (82140) 8.00 Unsolved Mysteries (27146) 9.00 Cops I (84324) 10.00 All American Wrestling (67411) 11.00 The Rookies (80986) 12.00 The Outsiders (57928)

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. News on the hour 9.30 Nightline (62188) 10.30 Our World (23701) 11.30 Newsline Weekend (53966) 12.30pm Those Were The Days (76633) 1.30 Holiday Destinations (77362) 2.30 Fashion TV (63614) 3.30 Those Were The Days (53184) 4.30 Our World (7695) 5.00 Live At Five (29782) 6.30 Newsline Weekend (91633) 7.30 Fashion TV (90140) 8.30 Holiday Destinations (75256) 10.30 Newsline Weekend (28614) 11.30 Fashion TV (97256) 12.30am Holiday Destinations (29580) 1.30 ABC News (14847) 2.30 Our World (81270) 3.30 ABC News (93015) 4.30 Those Were The Days (44676) 5.30 ABC News (60183)

SKY MOVIES+

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.00am Showcase (47237)
8.00 The Lady Vanishes (1979): Remake of the Hitchcock comedy-mystery set aboard a continental express (56188)
10.00 Rockula (1990): How does a teenage vampire lose his virginity? (39850)
12.00 Fads (1989): Rebecca DeMornay and Mary Gross in comedy about two women trying to be accepted at a male-dominated FBI training academy (71411)
2.00pm Jesse (1988): Lee Remick as a nurse on trial for practising without a licence (87661)
4.00 Police Academy 6 (1989): Cop capers (85854091)
5.40 Entertainment Tonight (421633)
6.00 Runaway Heart (1990): A woman falls in love with her kidnapper (98527)
8.00 Loverboy (1989): A teenage pizza-delivery boy is romantically involved with four older women (93072)
10.00 The Punisher (1990): Dolph Lundgren plays the Marvel comics vigilante (11817)
11.30 Games Of Desire (1988): An impotent husband is powerless to act when his wife seeks sexual satisfaction elsewhere (122695)
12.55am Gleaming The Cube (1989): Detective thriller set in the Californian skateboarding community (445676)
2.40 Burndown (1985): A reporter uncovers the truth about a nuclear plant (7667980)
4.05 M*A*S*H (1970): Black comedy from the Korean front (229102) To 5.59

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
6.15am Istanbul (1957): Errol Flynn is a fortune seeker (507121)
8.15 The Magic Of Dr Snuggles: Animated fun (612527)
10.15 Road Raiders (1989): Wartime comedy-adventure (625091)
12.15pm Love Happy (1950): Marx brothers comedy (970053)
2.15 B.L. Stryker — Pirates (1990): Burt Reynolds as a Malibu detective(990817)
4.15 Our Sons (1991): Julie Andrews and Ann-Margret are both mothers of gay sons, one of whom has Aids (886275)
6.15 House Of Frankenstein (1945): Boris Karloff as a mad scientist (65457546)
7.50 Spotlight (828343)
8.15 Vital Signs (1990): Hospital drama starring Jimmy Smits and Laura San Giacomo (12953121)
10.05 Murder By Night (1989): An injured man believes he was only witness to a brutal murder (204701)
11.45 Great Balls Of Fire (1989): Dennis Quaid plays Jerry Lee Lewis (512492)
1.35am White Water Summer (1987): A group of brat-packers find back-packing more difficult than they expected (702034)
3.10 The Forgotten (1989): Mysterious government agents stalk a party of Vietnam veterans recently released from a prisoner of war camp (204763). To 5.00

THE COMEDY CHANNEL

● Via the Astra satellites. 4.00pm The Lucy Hour (34879) 5.00 The Love Boat (7527) 6.00 Car 54, Where Are You? (2188) 6.30 The Monkees (6140) 7.00 Abbott & Costello (8256) 7.30 Maniac Mansion (2324) 8.00 Film: No Sex Please, We're British (64508) 10.00 Comic Strip Live (76343)

SKY SPORTS

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.30am Aerobics (22169) 7.00 NFL Today (84633) 8.00 Fishing The West (50966) 8.30 European League Football Round-up (55879) 9.30 Sky Soccer Weekend (33430) 10.30 Ford Ski Report (98879) 11.30 Motor World (19546) 12.00 Hopman Cup Tennis (26985) 2.00pm Boxing Documentary (88350) 3.00 WWF Wrestling Challenge (13362) 4.00 Americas Cup Preview 1991 (86922) 5.30 World Sport Special (3275) 6.00 World Professional Figure Skating Championships (36701) 8.00 Rock Sport (5904) 8.30 WWF Primetime Wrestling (69817) 10.00 F.A. Cup Classic (69091) 11.30 Ringside (27492) 1.30am World Professional Figure Skating Championships (67947)

EUROSPORT

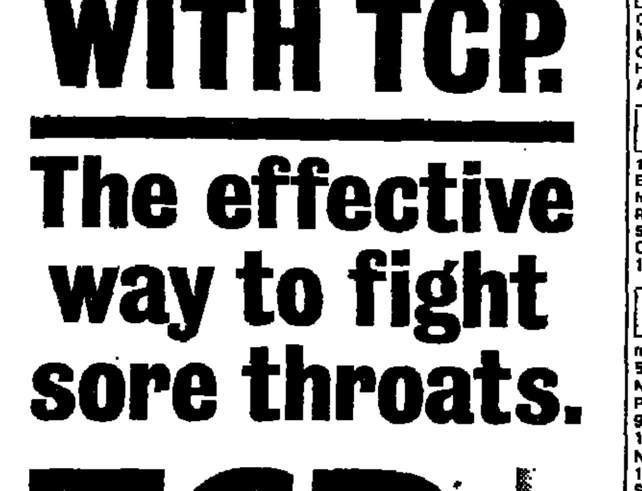
● Via the Astra satellite. 8.00am Motorsport News (70430) 9.00 Road To Albertville (69985) 9.30 Saturday Alive (4294481) 6.30 Motorsport News (35091) 7.30 Motorcycling On Ice — World Championships From Italy (34508) 8.30 Paris-Capetown Rally (6879) 9.00 Boxing (42362) 10.00 Skiing World Cup (51459) 11.30 Paris-Capetown Rally (20701)

SCREENSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite. 6.00am Gol (23188) 7.00 Ford Ski Report (82275) 8.00 NHL Action (83904) 9.00 Pilote (71459) 9.30 NBA Action 1992 (92430) 10.00 International Volleyball (51169) 11.00 Gillette World Sport Special (16459) 11.30 NBA Basketball 1991/92 (39817) 1.00pm WICB Basketball (91701) 2.00 International Showjumping (88332) 3.00 College Football Bowl Games (20508) 5.00 Powersports International (3169) 6.00 1992 Winter Olympic Preview (88237) 7.00 Top Rank Boxing (93965) 8.30 International Iceracing 1992 (22324) 9.30 US PGA Golf Tour 1992 (69188) 11.30 Formula One Grand Prix Films (33275) 12.00 Brunswick Invitational Bowling (16395) 12.30am International Tennis (64164) 2.00 NHL Ice Hockey (29639) 4.00 College Football Bowl Games (45541)

LIFESTYLE

● Via the Astra satellite. 12.00 Ensign O'Toole (79091) 12.30pm McKeever & The Colonel (98614) 1.00 White Shadow (8604169) 1.55 Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous (4692904) 2.50 Spain Spain Holiday (5853324) 3.05 Roller Derby (3840527) 4.00 Afternoon Cinema (88492) 5.30 Flash Gordon (6985) 6.00 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme (5312121) 10.00 Jukebox Music Videos (7851166)



RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW 4.00am Neale James (FM only until 6.00am) 7.00 The Bruno and Liz Breakfast Show 10.00 Dave Lee Travis 1.00pm Adrian Juste 2.00 Robbie Robertson: Second of two parts about the songwriter and guitarists, with Nicky Campbell 3.00 Johnnie Walker 7.00 The Saturday Rock Show: with Alan Freeman 10.00 Intimate Contact with Julian Clary: New series of phone-in gossip and confessions on 071 580 4411 11.00 John Peel (FM only from 12.00) 2.00am Lynn Parsons (FM only)

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 4.00am Alex Lester 6.00 Barbara Sturgeon 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Anne Robinson 12.00 Gyles Brandreth 1.00pm Comedy Hour: Round the Horne, with Kenneth Horne, Kenneth Williams, Hugh Paddick, Betty Marsden and Bill Pertwee 2.00 Ronnie Hilton 3.00 Steve Race 4.00 Junkin's Jokers 4.30 The Great Musicals. The Boyfriend by Sandy Wilson 5.00 Cinema 2 5.30 Music By . . 6.00 Bob Holness 7.00 The Pasadenas' Almanac 7.30 Evelyn Laye 9.30 Easy Does It 10.00 Radio 2 Arts Programme 12.05am Julie London 12.35 Colin Berry

RADIO 5

News on the hour to 12.00. 6.00am World Service: News; 24 Hours 6.30 Morning Edition 9.00 On Your Marks 12.00 Sport on 4 Plus 1 12.30pm Sportscall: 0345 909693 1.30 Sport on 5. Football (Barclays League. Man Utd v Everton, Arsenal v Aston Villa; Liverpool v Luton); Cricket (New Zealand v England); Racing from Ascot (1.30 Victor Chandler Chase). Racing from Leopardstown (2.20 Ladbroke Hurdle); Rugby League (Regal Trophy final); Rugby Union (Bath v Leicester; Cardiff v Neath). Results 5.00 Sports Report 6.06 Sa-O-Sa: 0345 909693 7.30 Le Top 9.00 Afropop Worldwide. The Cuban Connection from the annual summertime carnival in Santiago 10.00 Sports Bulletin 10.15 On the Level. 0474 212121

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT 4.30am World Business Report 4.40 Travel. Weather 4.45 News; Press Review in German 5.00 German features: GB report, Schallplatte der Woche, Tips für Touristen 5.24 News in German 5.30 Europe Today 5.59 Weather 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin; News in French 6.59 Weather 7.00 World News 7.09 24 Hours live; News Summary 7.30 From the Weeklies 7.45 The Mozart Phenomenon 8.00 World News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 A Jolly Good Show 9.00 World News 9.05 Waveguide 9.15 World Brief 9.30 Personal View 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 News 10.01 Jazz Now & Then 10.15 Letter from America 10.30 People and Politics 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Londres Midi, News in French 11.45 Mittagsmagazin. News in German 11.59 Weather 12.00 World News 12.09pm News About Britain 12.15 Multitrack 3 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newshour 2.00 Club 648 2.15 Personal View 2.30 Sportsworld 3.00 World News 3.15 Sportsworld continued 4.00 World News 4.09 News about Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 4.40 German features: Weltspiegel. Genauer betrachtet 4.59 Travel news 5.00 News 5.01 Sportsworld: final results 5.30 Londres Soir. News in French including Les Hommes et les Livres, Itinéraire Anglais 6.14 BBC English 6.29 News 6.30 Heute Aktuell: News in German 7.00 German features including Tips für Touristen, Aktuelles Feature, London Heartbeat 7.54 News in German 8.00 World News 8.09 Book Choice 8.15 Londres Dernière: News in French 8.30 Europe This Weekend 9.00 Newshour 10.00 World News 10.05 Short Story: Cucumbers and Mint 10.20 Meridian 10.50 Sports Roundup 11.00 World News 11.05 Words of Faith 11.10 Book Choice 11.15 A Jolly Good Show 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am The Ken Bruce Show 1.00 News 1.01 Play of the Week. Yabuhara — The Blind Master Minstrel 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 What Do Hindus Believe? 3.00 World News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 Sports 3.30 From Our Own Correspondent 3.50 Write on. 4.00 Newsdesk

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Ski Tips (73968) 1.55 Dinosaurs (60331140) 2.25-4.45 Snooker (63031324) 5.15-5.25 Cartoon Time (1841985)

BORDER

As London except: 1.55pm-4.45 Snooker (79067817) 5.15-5.25 Cartoon Time (1841985) 12.30am Film: Linda (97454) 2.00 The Hit Man and Her (38299) 4.00 Videofashion (74693) 4.30 Pacific Sportsworld (4593015) 5.05-5.30 William Tell (2542524)

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.55pm-4.45 Snooker (79067817) 5.15-5.25 Central Sports Special (1841985) 12.30am Film: Nairobi Affair (520831) 2.15 CinemAttractions (13831) 2.45 America's Top Ten (6465251) 3.20 Alfred Hitchcock Presents (66426831) 3.45 WCW Pro Wrestling (770812) 4.45-5.30 Central Jobfinder '92 (8468102)

GRANADA

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Superman (73968) 1.55-4.45 Snooker (79067817) 5.10-5.25 Granada Goals Extra (1833966) 12.30am Film: Linda (97454) 2.00 The Hit Man and Her (38299) 4.00 Videofashion (74693) 4.30 Pacific Sportsworld (4593015) 5.05-5.30 William Tell (2542524)

HTV WEST

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Superman (73968) 1.55 Ski Tips (60331140) 2.25-4.45 Snooker (63031324) 5.05-5.25 HTV West News and Sport (6526072)

HTV WALES

As London except:

TSW

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 The South West Week (73968) 1.55-4.45 Snooker (79067817) 5.15-5.25 Cartoon Time (1841985) 12.30 Film: Linda (97454) 2.00 The Hit Man and Her (97454) 4.00 Videofashion (74693) 4.30 Pacific Sportsworld (4593015) 5.05-5.30 William Tell (2542524)

TVS

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Superman (73968) 1.55 Motorsport Special (60331140) 2.25-4.45 Snooker (63031324) 5.15-5.25 Cartoon (1841985)

TYNE TEES

As London except: 1.55pm-4.45 Snooker (79067817) 5.05 Northern Life Sport Special (1845701) 5.15-5.25 Cartoon Time (1841985) 12.30am Film: Linda (97454) 2.00 Hit Man and Her (38299) 4.00 Videofashion (74693) 4.30 Pacific Sportsworld (4593015) 5.05 William Tell (2542524)

ULSTER

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Blockbusters (73968) 1.55-4.45 Snooker (79067817) 5.15-5.25 Cartoon Time (1841985) 12.30am Film: Linda (97454) 2.00 The Hit Man and Her (38299) 4.00 Videofashion (74693) 4.30 Pacific Sportsworld (4593015) 5.05-5.30 William Tell (2542524)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Katts and Dog (73968) 1.55-4.45 Snooker (79067817) 5.05 Calendar News (1845701) 5.15-5.25 Cartoon Time (1841985) 12.30am Film: The Scars of Dracula (97454) 2.00 The Hit Man and Her (38299) 4.00 Florence or Life in the Chateau (16193) 5.00-5.30 Music Box (93580)

S4C

Starts: 9.30am Jeliin (26362) 10.00 Pro-Celebrity Golf (66053) 11.00 A Brush with Art (1965) 11.30 Dramarama (2614) 12.00 Travelog (65527) 12.30pm American Football — Red 42 (97850) 1.00 Film: AAJ KA Robin Hood (7786865) 2.25 Film: Hello Dolly (Barbra Streisand, Walter Matthau, Michael Crawford) (34512459) 5.05 Brookside (1984633) 6.30 Free For All (411) 7.00 News (654695) 7.25 Bechingalw (787362) 7.55 Dr Elen (850508) 8.55 Desmond's (224898) 9.25 Quizbowl (482188) 9.55 Tocyn Tymor (455850) 10.35 Film: Somebody Up There Likes Me (Paul Newman) (86607492) 12.40am The Oprah Winfrey Show (9157744) 1.25 Diwedd

RTE 1

Starts: 10.40am Davy Jones' Locker (8898324) 11.40 Film: Dot and the Bunny (86952188) 1.05pm CHiPs (1848343) 1.55 News (87585188) 2.00 The Disney Hour (3943982) 2.50 Gunsmoke (7919986) 3.40 Film: Alice Adams (1200904) 5.30 Scealaiocht Janosch (3324121) 6.00 The Angelus (9671430) 6.01 News (2632053) 6.15 Mailbag (1986701) 6.40 Talkabout (4127411) 7.05 Baywatch (8705148) 8.00 Secrets (4069463) 9.00 News (4447889) 9.20 Kenny Live (71157362) 10.40 Reasonable Doubts (6480275) 11.35 Bangkok Hilton (7929237) 12.30am News (9861270) 12.35 Close

NETWORK 2

Starts: 12.30pm News (14067237) 12.34 Sports Stadium (38652817) 5.10 Family Theatre (19915091) 6.00 The Boy from Andromeda (90136879) 6.30 Seachtain (54809782) 6.55 Nuacht (58928546) 7.00 Kwai (47480546) 8.05 News (24815558) followed by Perry Mason Returns (80277701) 9.55 First Works (87445527) 10.25 Film: Babette's Feast (47365081) 12.10am Close

RADIO 3

6.35am Open University (FM only): Maths Access: Countdown to Trig

6.55 Weather; News

7.00 Morning Concert: Arne (Organ Concerto No 4 in B flat: Roger Bevan Williams with Cantilena under Adrian Shepherd); Dyson (Rhapsody No 1 for string quartet: Divertimenti)

7.30 News

7.35 Walton (Façade, Suites Nos 1 and 2: RPO under Malcolm Sargent): Villa Lobos (Modinha, Bachiana Brasileira No 1: Pleeth Cello Octet); Arnold (Guitar Concerto: ECO under Barry Wordsworth with Eduardo Fernandez, guitar)

8.30 News

8.35 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Takuo Yuasa, with Graeme McNaught, piano, plays Stravinsky (Concerto in D); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor)

9.30 Saturday Review with Richard Osborne: Record Review; Building a Library: Janáček (String Quartets); Toscanini (Leningrad): 150 years of the New York Philharmonic

10.40 Call the Controller

● CHOICE: Radio 3's dynamic controller John Drummond who retires this month, has sometimes been given a bumpy ride during more than four years in the driving seat. He probably won't be given a smoother one when he makes his last broadcast as controller this morning, answering listeners' questions. Anchor man James Naughtie will have his work cut out interposing his body between Drummond and the steamroller wrath of those who will be after his blood because Radio 3 will lose its medium wavelength next month, and because *Test Match Special* will bite deeply into Radio 3 schedules this summer (081 580 4411)

11.30 Record Review: Rossini (Overture, L'Italiana in Algeri: Philharmonic SO of New York under Arturo Toscanini, mono 1936): Marais (Suite en trio in C. Ensemble Amalia); Dvořák (Cypresses, selection: Philip Langridge, tenor; Radoslav Kvapil, piano), Ernest Schelling (A Victory Ball: NYPO under Willem Mengelberg, mono 1925): Schumann (Piano Sonata No 2 in G minor, Op 22: Wilhelm Kempff, piano)

12.55pm Words

1.00 News

1.05 Bach: Anner Bylsma, cello, plays Suite No 2 in D minor, BWV 1008); Suite No 3 in C, BWV 1009) (r)

2.05 Rafael Kubelík: In the second of 13 programmes, Kubelík conducts the Czech Philharmonic in recordings made between 1946 and 1948. Dvořák (Overture, Carnival; Piano Concerto in G minor: Rudolf Firkusny, piano. Live recording from the first Prague Spring Festival): Novák (South Bohemian Suite); Martinů (Scherzo, Symphony No 4): Janáček (Sinfonietta)

4.05 Debussy Preludes: Book One. The first of two programmes in which Roy Howat introduces and plays the complete Debussy preludes

5.00 Jazz Record Request: with Geoffrey Smith

5.45 Third Opinion: Includes reviews of Tom Murphy's play *The Gigli Concert*; and *The Art of Death* at the V&A; Italo Calvino's *Under the Jaguar Sun*

6.30 Violin and Viola: Mark Lubotsky and Nobuko Imai play Mozart (Duo in G, K 423); Hindemith (Sonata for violin, Op 31 No 2); Mozart (Duo in B flat, K 424) (r)

7.30 Tovaldo e Dorliska: Rossini's semicomic opera in two acts, with libretto by Cesare Sterbini, live from Lugano, Switzerland. Italian-Swiss Radio-Television Chorus and Italian-Swiss Orchestra under Massimo de Bernart, with Stefano Antonucci, baritone, as Duca d'Ordow; Barbara Frittoli, soprano, as Dorliska; Ernesto Palacio, tenor, as Torvaldo; Mauro Buda, bass, as Giorgio; Nicoletta Cilento, mezzo-soprano, as Carlotta; Antonio Marani, bass, as Ormondo. Incl. **8.50** Nicholas Till on the life of Rossini

10.45 Vega Wind Quintet: Alan Bullard (Dances for wind quintet); Stamitz (Quartet in E flat for oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn, Op 8 No 2); Paul Patterson (Comedy for five winds)

11.25 Mozart through the Looking Glass: John and Kathryn Lenehan, pianos, play Mozart, arr Grieg (Sonata in F, Allegro and Andante, K 533, and Rondo, K 494; Sonata in G, K 283) (2 of 3)

12.00 News

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM.

5.55am Shipping **6.10** News Briefing, incl **6.30** Weather **6.50** Farming Week **7.00** Today, incl **7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **7.25, 8.25** Sports **7.55** Weather **8.58** Weather

9.00 News

9.05 Sport on 4: with Cliff Morgan

9.30 Breakaway: with Ken Bruce. David Preel reports from the western fjords of Norway

10.00 News; Loose Ends: with Ned Sherrin, Robert Elms and Victoria Mather (s)

11.00 News; Talking Politics: Robin Oakley talks to representitives of the different parties about the forthcoming general election

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent

12.00 Money Box: with Louise Botting

12.25pm Just a Minute!: Panel game chaired by Nicholas Parsons. With Derek Nimmo, Wendy Richard, Paul Merton and Stephen Fry (s)

1.00 News

1.10 Any Questions? Nick Clarke chairs the programme from Gloucester. With Robin Cook MP, Opposition spokesman on health and social services; Jean Lambert, British Green party representative to the European Parliament; Christopher Patten MP, chairman of the Conservative Party; and Shirley Williams, professor of electoral politics at Harvard University (r)

2.00 News; Any Answers?: Nick Clarke takes viewers' opinions on issues raised in *Any Questions?* 071 580 4411

2.30 Saturday Playhouse: Tarra Lengy by Frank White. Billy Lengy is an 13-year-old optimist in wartime Manchester (r)

4.00 The Art of Travel: Tim Severin recreates St Brendan's voyage from Ireland to the promised land (2 of 6)

4.30 Science Now: Alun Lewis visits scientists working on a glacier above the Arctic Circle

5.00 What If. . . ?: Dr Christopher Andrew examines what would might have happened if Ulster had been reduced to four counties instead of six in the 1920s (s) (r)

5.25 Family Fortunes: Phil Smith examines the pressures of family life (2 of 6) (r)

6.00 News; Sports

6.25 Week Ending: Satirical review of the week's events (s) (r)

6.50 Ad Lib

7.20 Kaleidoscope in Greenland: Paul Allen investigates if there a place for Inuit art in Greenland's changing society (s)

7.50 Classic Serial: The Betrothed. The second of a four-part adaptation of Alessandro Manzoni's novel. Renzo and Lucia flee for safety from the clutches of Don Rodrigo (s)

8.50 Only Connect: In the second of six conversations with people from the Indian subcontinent who are successful in Britain, Professor Akbar Ahmed talks to Mrs Shahwar Sadeque (s) (r)

9.20 Music in Mind (s)

9.50 Ten to Ten (s)

10.00 News

10.15 Northern Lights: Cultures on Ice

● CHOICE: The secondary title of the second of Daniel Snowman's fine documentaries about life within the Arctic Circle could be misleading. It is not about the deep-freeze preservation of cultures beyond their normal span of life. On the contrary, *Cultures on Ice* produces an encouragingly long list of examples of Arctic languages, customs and musical forms that are not only being kept alive but are actually flourishing. Ingenuity is sometimes demanded, as when Eskimo radio newsreaders during the Gulf war had to find home-grown words for Scud missiles and desert warfare (s) (r)

10.45 For He is an Englishman: Eels, Fairies and Royals. Charles Arnold-Baker discusses the nature of Englishness

11.00 Richard Baker Compares Notes: with cellists Alexander Baillie and Timothy Hugh (s) (r)

11.30 The End of the Road Show: Comedy from Bristol (3 of 4) (s)

12.00 News; **12.20** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** FM closes/LW joins World Service

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: 693kHz/433m;909kHz/330m;FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; World Service: MW 648kHz/463m.

BBC 1

8.40 The Four Great Seasons: The Great Spring *(r)* (6269034)
9.10 News and weather (4864893) **9.15 Getting Through.** A profile of squadron leader Michael Cole (7200289)
9.30 This is the Day. The power of prayer (22763)
10.00 See Hear! (57034). Wales: Into Print **10.30 Deutsch Direkt!** (r) (1367034). Wales: Skillshop (92034)
10.55 Fast Feasts. *How to make* a Greek meze (7991831)
11.00 The Training Hour starting with **Into Print: Typomania.** The art of typography using desktop publishing (r) (3676). Wales: See You Sunday (15638) **11.30 Skillshop** (s) (4305)
12.00 Play It Safe! Accidents Just Happen — Don't They? Anneka Rice offers advice on children's safety (r). (Ceefax) (83386)
12.30 Country File (6867251). Wales: Farming in Wales (93251)
1.00 News (39999522) followed by **Paradise: Treasure.** Western drama series (1306305) **1.50 Cartoon** (21168928)
2.00 EastEnders. Omnibus edition (r). (Ceefax) (s) (58763)
3.00 Columbo: Now You See Him. Peter Falk as the crumpled American police *lieutenant (r) (1318270)*
4.25 Biteback. The monthly right-to-reply show allowing the viewer to question BBC programme makers. (Ceefax) (1717170)
5.05 The Clothes Show (s) (7993015)
5.30 Antiques Roadshow visits Cleethorpes. (Ceefax) (673183)
6.15 Play It Safe! Home Accidents. (Ceefax) (516928)
6.25 News and weather (619454)
6.40 Songs of Praise. Martin Bashir visits St David's Hall in Cardiff for the launch of a new hymn book. (Ceefax) (s) (877367)
7.15 'Allo! 'Allo! A new series with the French farceurs, who disguise themselves as Spanish dancers. (Ceefax) (s) (536305)
7.45 Lovejoy: Friends in High Places. Ian McShane *returns as the* dodgy antiques dealer and meets Victoria (Joanna Lumley), the owner of a valuable Inca ring. (Ceefax) (s) (987744)
8.35 As Time Goes By

● CHOICE: A new sitcom from the prolific Bob Larbey stars Judi Dench and Geoffrey Palmer as old flames who meet again after nearly 40 *years and tentatively resume their relationship. Palmer* plays a military type who has spent most of his life in Kenya and Dench runs the secretarial agency which is servicing his memoirs. It is an easy-going, comfortable show which runs along predictable lines and is sustained by the skilled playing of the stars. Both are excellent comedy actors, Palmer with his deadpan, staccato style, Dench the *mistress of the double-take.* Their timing, both individually and together, is *exquisite* and they consistently manage to make lines sound funnier than they are. The humour is partly nostalgic, based on the pair's shared memories of the early 1950s, and partly derives from their embarrassment at the prospect of starting a fresh romance in late middle age. (Ceefax) (s) (745183)


New love, old love: Dervla Kirwan and Ronald Pickup (9.05pm)

9.05 A Time To Dance

● CHOICE: Melvyn Bragg offers a three-part adaptation of his novel about the destructive affair between a middle-aged bank manager and an 18-year-old girl, set in the Lake District. Bragg's scenario carefully establishes the characters' contrasting worlds. The man is orderly, bookish and has retired early to look after his invalid wife. The girl comes from a large and boisterous working-class Catholic family. Given these backgrounds, the affair seems to happen out of nowhere. There is no indication that the man has lost affection for his wife, while the girl's rape three years earlier by the family lodger might argue, if anything, against plunging into a new relationship. But if the motivation seems shaky it is largely masked by intelligent performances from the reliable Ronald Pickup and a young Irish actress new to television, Dervla Kirwan. Rosemary McHale plays the wife and Kevin Billington directs. (Ceefax) (s) (459096)

10.05 News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) *Weather* (802960)
10.20 Everyman: The Road Back to Hell. A year after the Gulf war, the dissident Iraqi writer Kanan Makiya uncovers evidence of the mass murder of thousands of Kurds in southern Iraq (880909)
11.00 The Nobel Century (474657) **11.50 The Sky at Night** (548541)
12.10am Mahabharat *(r)* (1747706) **12.50 Weather** (6756023)

BBC 2

7.25 But First This on 2: Hallo Spencer: Kasi the Mailman (r) (2194270) **7.55 Playdays** (r) (4804744) **8.05 Babar** (7188763) **8.30 Telling Tales** (s) (7507164) **8.45 The Legend of Prince Valiant** (s) (2788270) **9.10 Blood and Honey.** Tony Robinson tells stories from the Old Testament (s) (7921386) **9.30 Defenders of the Earth.** Cartoon (r). (Ceefax) (7836270) **9.50 Blue Peter Omnibus** (7047454) **10.40 Strangers: Live Action.** Mystery drama series. Starring Martin Henderson, Amber McWilliams and Hamish McFarlane (r) (1354560) **11.05 Boxpops: Challenges.** Which New Kids on the Block chart topper opens today's programme? (8834270) **11.45 The O-Zone.** Music magazine (s) (7572947)
12.00 *Film: The Courage of Lassie* (1946). A shell-shocked Lassie returns from the second world war and is nursed back to health by Elizabeth Taylor. Directed by Fred M. Wilcox (82893). Wales: See Hear!; 12.30 Cartoon; 12.40 Astor Piazzolla: Tango Nuevo
1.30 Film: There Must Be a Pony (1986). Elizabeth Taylor as a faded Hollywood film star trying to make a comeback in a television soap opera. With Robert Wagner and Mickey Rooney as himself. Directed by Joseph Sargent. (Ceefax) (30386)
3.00 Opera Season: Wozzeck. Alban Berg's opera about a young soldier who fathers a child with his lover and then murders her in a fit of jealousy. The English National Opera production by David Pountney *is conducted by Mark Elder and sung* in English. With Donald Maxwell as Wozzeck, Kristine Ciesinski as Marie and Alan Woodrow as Captain. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 3 (s) (59294270)
4.40 100 Great Sporting Moments. Final of the 1967 Piccadilly World Matchplay golf tournament between Arnold Palmer and Peter Thompson (4139367)
5.00 Rugby Special. Chris Rea introduces the Courage League match between Bath and Leicester, and previews next week's five nations championship (5676)
6.00 Ski Sunday. David Vine introduces the men's downhill from Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Bavaria (471947)
6.35 The Money Programme: Good Health? Rory Cellan-Jones reports on private health insurance, and a new player in the market, the Norwich Union (518102)
7.15 Crufts '92: Supreme Champion. The final day of the pedigree dog show, including the competition for best in show and the title of supreme champion (s) (392183)
8.15 Signs of the Times: Red Drive Me Nuts. Good and bad taste is in the eye of the beholder. The second of five documentaries enters the homes and thoughts of ten people living on their own (390454)


Comic angst: John Stockwell and Rosanna Arquette (9.05pm)

9.05 Trying Times: A Family Tree. The start of a new angst-ridden American comedy drama series. Starring Rosanna Arquette and John Stockwell (502831)
9.35 Did You See . . ? Jeremy Paxman and guests Glenys Kinnock, Paul Jackson and Alan Coren review Channel 4's documentary *Otherwise Engaged, The Pall Bearer's Revue* and the *Antiques Roadshow* (908251)
10.05 Film: Ironweed (1987). The network television premiere of William Kennedy's bleak drama starring Jack Nicholson and Meryl Streep as two down and outs during the American depression. Directed by Hector Babenco (75841305). Ends at **12.25am**

ITV

6.00 TV-am (6734102)
9.25 Disney Club. Andrea Boardman, John Eccleston and Paul Hendy present the regular mix of cartoons, including a trip to EuroDisney on the outskirts of Paris, and music from Johnny Hates Jazz (6395676)
10.45 Link: Films. *Sian Vasey investigates the recent spate of films* about disability. With signing and subtitles. (Oracle) (2692980)
11.00 Morning Worship from the Melbourne Hall Evangelical Free Church in Leicester (79744)
12.00 Encounter: I Believe in You. The gospel singer Lou Lewis's music reflects her own life story (78454)
12.30 LWT News Weekend with Anna Maria Ashe and Ed Boyle (6892947) **12.55 LWT Weather** (72962299)
1.00 ITN News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (6153283)
1.10 Special Friends. A documentary about two 23-year-old Irish women with Down's syndrome, whose friendship has overcome their practical difficulties (1389638). Followed by **The Day**
2.00 Batman. Comic-strip adventures with Adam West (1326812)
2.50 Dinosaurs. Prehistoric puppet series (s) (6681299)
3.20 The Match: Sheffield Wednesday v Leeds United. Elton Welsby introduces live football action from Hillsborough. With commentary by Alan Parry (s) (21390522)
5.30 Bullseye. *Jim Bowen hosts the darts quiz* (s) (314)
6.00 Animal Country. Desmond Morris and Sarah Kennedy encounter cats, dogs and horses in Suffolk and Norfolk (s) (947)
6.30 ITN News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (919251) **6.35 LWT News** and weather (918522)
6.40 Highway. From the Exe Estuary in Devon, Sir Harry Secombe talks to Rabbi Lionel Blue, naturalist Tony Soper and Exmouth journalist George Pridmore, and sings with the band of Her Majesty's Royal Marine Commandos. (Oracle) (s) (895763)
7.15 You've Been Framed! Jeremy Beadle introduces more out-takes from viewers' home videos (521473)
7.45 Agatha Christie's Poirot: Death in the Clouds. David Suchet's detective investigates a murder on a flight from Paris to London With Sarah Woodward and Cathryn Harrison. (Oracle) (776676)
9.45 ITN News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (634164) **10.00 LWT** Weather (954725)


In search of funk: Lenny Henry and Melvyn Bragg (10.05pm)

10.05 The South Bank Show: Lenny Henry Hunts the Funk

● CHOICE: Lenny Henry could spend an hour going through the telephone directory and it would still be the most entertaining show of the week. He has a much better subject than that as Melvyn Bragg dispatches him to Harlem and Minneapolis to tell the story of funk. Bragg helpfully defines funk as "the black American musical style made famous by James Brown". But for Lenny it is an enthusiasm and a way of life. Embellished by Henry's usual face-pulling, guffaws and verbal contortions, the show is a structured and informative survey that starts more or less at the beginning (James Brown at the Apollo, late 1950s) and comes up to the present day. The only flat spots are when Henry tries to play interviewer. He looks uncomfortable and funk stars tend to be happier with music than words, though George Clinton's "we gave it a different kind of wowness" is, in the context, spot on (s) (274299)

11.05 Film: The Ann Jillian Story (1987). The American singer and actress, who overcame breast cancer, stars in this worthy account of her life and career. Directed by Corey Allen (283218)
12.55am Cue the Music. New Order in concert (s) (3779990)
1.55 The ITV Chart Show (r) (s) (6624400)
2.55 Film: Assault (1970). Banal suspense thriller about a teacher who acts as a decoy to trap a rapist and murderer. Starring Frank Finlay and Suzy Kendall. Directed by Sidney Hayers (839110)
4.30 Pick of the Week (r) (41868)
5.00 Soap. American comedy with the Tates and Campbells (r) (11139)
5.30 ITN Morning News (46706). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Trans World Sport (r) (10676) **7.00 Eureeka's Castle** (72831) **7.30 Star Street** (7331218) **7.55 The Wild Bunch** (7316909) **8.25 Ramona** (7184947) **8.55 New Kids on the Block . . . On Tour** (6258928)
9.25 The Sword of Tipu Sultan. Eighteenth-century Indian drama. In *Hindustani with* English subtitles (9344657)
10.00 Dangerous Lives: Don't Tell the Workers. The possible side effects of working with chemicals (r) (3349812)
10.50 Dennis. Cartoon adventures with the mischievous boy (8492657)
11.10 Round the Bend: Ghost. Doc Croc's video comic is haunted (s) (4290589)
11.30 Dramarama: *Just a Normal Girl. The first of five children's* dramas is about disabled teenagers (r). (Teletext) (7015)
12.00 Little House on the Prairie: The Lord Is My Shepherd. Concluding last week's story (r) (66116)
1.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea: Night of Terror. Vintage aquatic adventures with the submarine Seaview (r) (14744)
2.00 Film: Twelve O'Clock High (1949, b/w) Absorbing second world war drama starring Gregory Peck as the ruthless commander of an American bomber squadron who begins to crack under the strain. Directed by Henry King (18183560)
4.25 Valued Opinion: Channel Island Silver. Max Robertson presents *the first of six programmes about* collecting antiques (4903928)
4.55 News Summary and weather (6806560)
5.00 Scottish Eye: Toxic Timebomb. In the first of a new series, the current affairs programme examines the high incidence of childhood leukaemia near chemical waste sites on the outskirts of Glasgow (8909)
5.30 Dig. The unorthodox gardening programme *looks around film-*maker Derek Jarman's garden, and cartoonist Ralph Steadman demonstrates his way of controlling pests (r) (Teletext) (676)
6.00 Teenage Health Freak: Blast Off! A second chance to see Daniel Peacock's offbeat six-part comedy series about a hypochondriac 15-year-old boy (r) (Teletext) (s) (589)
6.30 The Wonder Years: Day One. Nostalgic American comedy series about a teenager growing up in the 1960s. Starring Fred Savage (s) (541)


A natural protector: conservationist José Palazzo (7.00pm)

7.00 Defenders of the Wild: The Sting of José Palazzo

● CHOICE: José Palazzo is a 28-year-old Brazilian conservationist who has risked his life to protect his country's wildlife against armed gangs of poachers from over the border in Uruguay. Palazzo's main concern has been the Taim nature reserve, one of the last pristine wetland areas of southern Brazil and home to many rare animals and birds. A prime target of the poachers is the nutria, a small animal hunted for its fur. More than 1,000 illegal traps have been found in the reserve but Palazzo and his team of volunteers are fighting back. The film follows a sting against a dealer in nutria furs involving a furtive night-time operation by the police and an undercover agent. Much of Palazzo's work is less spectacular and less dangerous. But it is similarly dedicated to saving the natural world from the ravages of man, whether it is Brazil's dwindling coastal forest or a whale once slaughtered to the edge of extinction. (Teletext) (9589)

8.00 American Football. Mick Luckhurst introduces live coverage of Washington Redskins v Detroit Lions, and highlights of Buffalo Bills v Denver Broncos (7715909)
12.30am Film: Joyride (1977). Shapeless action drama about three California teenagers who set off for Alaska and turn to crime. Starring Desi Arnaz Jr, Robert Carradine and Melanie Griffith. Directed by Joseph Ruben (322503). Ends at **2.10**

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 12.25pm Goals Galore (6423928) 1.10 The Story of Steam (1389638) 2.00 Highway to Heaven (1326812) 2.50-3.20 A Place in the Sun (6681299) 11.05 Film: Smile, Jenny, You're Dead (155096) 12.45 Pop Profile (3065023) 12.55 Cue the Music (3779990) 1.55-2.55 The ITV Chart Show (6624400)

BORDER

As London except: 12.30pm-12.55 Gardening Time (6892947) 1.10Film: The Crooked Road (44438893) 2.55-3.20 Bullseye 5608786) 5.30-6.30 Scotsport 31386) 11.05 Prisoner: Cell Block H (182164) 12.00 *Cover Story (45077) 12.30am Quiz Night* (1201110) 12.55 Murphy's Law (3779990) 1.55 Film: The Man Who Wouldn't Talk (610226) 3.40 Pick of the Week (68689936) 4.10 The ITV Chart Show (3276042) 5.00-5.30 Jobfinder (11139)

CENTRAL

As London except: 12.30pm-12.55 Gardening Time (6892947) 1.10 1991 Canon World Triathlon Championships (8042218) 2.10-3.20 The Blizzard of Aahhh's (7924928) 6.00-6.30 Dinosaurs (947) 12.55am Wallenberg: A Hero's Story (236752) 2.40 Cue the *Music (4193874) 3.40 The ITV Chart Show* (5541232) 4.35-5.30 Jobs (5292329)

GRANADA

As London except: 12.25pm-1.00 Close to the Edge (6407980) 1.10 Cartoon Time (61529667) 1.25 The A-Team(1377893) 2.20 *Bullseye (633657) 2.50-3.20* Taylor and McMenemy (3504299) 5.30-6.30 Coronation Street (31386) 11.05 Prisoner: Cell Block H (182164) 12.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents (45077) 12.30am Quiz Night (1201110) 12.55 Murphy's Law (3779990) 1.55-3.40 Film: The Man Who Wouldn't Talk (610226). *4.10 The ITV Chart Show (3276042) 5.00-* 5.30 Jobfinder (11139)

HTV WEST

As London except: 12.30pm-12.55 West Country Farming (6892947) 1.10 German Touring Car Championship (1389638) 2.00 *HTV Newsweek (9015) 2.30 Planning the* Small Garden (4462305) 2.45-2.50 Cartoon (8929196).

TSW

As London except: 12.30pm-12.55 Farming Week (6892947) 1.10 Triumph of the Nomads (2514893) 2.05 Children's Island (97640541) 2.35-3.20 The A-Team (1086725) 11.05 Film: The Old Man Who Cried Wolf (698270) 12.30 Quiz Night (16077) 1.00 Murphy's Law (4463139) 1.55 Film: The Man Who Wouldn't Talk (610226) 3.40 Pick of the Week (68689936) 4.10 The ITV Chart Show (1579139) 5.10-5.30 Jobfinder (6842329)

TVS

As London except: 12.33pm-12.58 An Invitation to Remember (6892947) 1.10 The Wonderful World of Disney (2514893) 2.05 Ski Tips (33699947) 2.35-2.50 Cartoon (65385693)

TYNE TEES

As London except: 12.25pm-12.55 The Best of British (6407980) 1.10 Highway to Heaven (8042218) 2.10 Out of Limits *(70142589) 2.20 Dinosaurs* (65385693) 2.50-3.20 The Back Page (6681299) 11.05 Prisoner: Cell Block H (103657) 12.05am Alfred Hitchcok Presents (4084936) 12.30 Quiz Night (1201110) 12.55 Murphy's Law (3779990) 1.55 Film: The Man Who Wouldn't Talk (610226) 3.40 Pick of the Week *(68689936) 4.10 The ITV Chart Show* (1652416) 5.05-5.30 Jobfinder (9658856)

ULSTER

As London except: 12.30pm Gardening Time (6892947) 1.10 Rock Sport (61529667) 1.25 Matlock (2537744) 2.20 Bullseye (65385693) 2.50-3.20 The River Thames (6681299) 5.30-6.30 Coronation Street (31386) 11.05 Film: Women in Chains (842164) 12.20 Pop Profile (6227503) 12.30 Quiz Night (16077) 12.55 Murphy's Law (4463139) 1.55 Film: The Man Who Wouldn't Talk (610226) 3.40 Pick of the Week (68689936) 4.10 The ITV Chart Show (1652416) 5.05-5.30 Jobfinder (9658856)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 12.25pm-1.00 Goals on Sunday (6423928) 1.10 The Spectacular World of Guinness Records (61352831) 1.35-3.20 Film: Merrill's Marauders (27399102) 5.30 Animal Country (314) 6.00-6.30 Bullseye (947) 11.05 Scrumdown (103657) 12.05am The Law and Harry McGraw (3614042) 1.05 Coach (6843509) 1.35 Pick of the Week (5538394) 2.05 The ITV Chart Show (3446431) 3.05 Film: The *Best of Benny Hill* (614990) 4.45-5.30 Jobfinder (8435874)

S4C

Starts: 9.30 It's a Dog's Life (15473) 10.00 *The Red Shoes (40744) 10.30 The Return of* The Magic Roundabout (85744) 11.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea (77396) 12.00 Little House on the Prairie (8932102) 12.55pm Now You're Talking (9654522) 1.20 Now You're Talking (46533612) 1.45 Bwrw Mlaen (649218) 2.15 Equinox (420305) 3.15 *Animation (1654909)* 3.30 Queen — Live at Milton Keynes Bowl (50299) 4.30 The Crystal Maze (82015) 5.30 Pobol Y Cwm (73598725) 7.10 Saith Ar Y Sul (458725) 7.25 Llcyrls Olsorts (497270) 8.05 Hel Straeon (139473) 8.35 Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol (738893) 9.05 Mwy Na Phapur Newydd (69594216) 10.50 American Football (91843183)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

● Via the *Astra and Marcopolo satellites.* 6.00am Bailey's Bird (72928) 6.30 Castaway (80386) 7.00 Fun Factory (7743198) 11.00 Hour Of Power (91980) 12.00 Sable (52928) 1.00pm The New Adventures of Wonder Woman (61676) 2.00 All American Wrestling (72367) 3.00 Eight is Enough (64299) 4.00 *The Love Boat (76034) 5.00 Hey Dad (6541)* 5.30 Hart to Hart (75744) 6.30 The Simpsons (6299) 7.00 21 Jump Street (86909) 8.00 Harem: The Loss Of Innocence (99473) 10.00 Falcon Crest (76980) 11.00 Entertainment Tonight (12473) 12.00 Downtown (44435)

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. News on the hour. 9.30am Dayline (98299) 10.30 Those Were the Days (21560) 11.30 Holiday Destinations (32270) 12.30pm Financial Times Business Weekly (43522) 1.30 Target (44251) *2.30 Roving Report* (33270) 3.30 The Lords (96873) 4.30 Those Were The Days (2096) 5.00 Live at Five (25183) 6.30 Roving Report (58589) 7.30 Financial Times Business Weekly (27229) 8.30 Target (73015) 10.30 Roving Report (26473) 11.30 Financial Times Business Weekly (86725) 12.30am Target (36481) 1.30 Financial Times Business Weekly (60936) 2.30 Those Were the Days (87677) 3.30 Holiday Destinations (57482) 4.30 Target (40077) 5.30 Beyond 2000 (75232)

SKY MOVIES+

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.00am Showcase (45096)
8.00 The Witching Of Ben Wagner: A boy befriends a girl whose mother is thought to be a witch (96947)
10.00 Memphis Belle (1990): Real-life second world war drama about the crew of a US bomber (44909)
12.00 Troop Beverly Hills (1989). Shelley Long in comedy about a spoilt woman who takes over her local girl scout pack (79270)
2.00pm Leona Helmsley: The Queen Of Mean (1990): The New York real estate giant who fell from grace (92560)
4.00 Ski Patrol (1990): High jinks on the ski slopes (2856)
6.00 The Woo Woo Kid (1987): A 15-year-old boy marries one of his neighbours and escapes to another state. When he is caught, he does exactly the same thing again but this time with another woman (452218)
7.40 Projector (618909)
8.00 The Fourth War (1990): Roy Scheider and Jurgen Prochnow as post-cold war colonels who refuse to end their animosity, even when posted together on the Czechoslovakian frontier (84541)
10.00 The Running Man (1987): Arnold Schwarzenegger as an escaped convict forced to play a dangerous game in this futuristic action-thriller (287909)
11.45 Dangerous Liaisons (1988): John *Malkovich, Glenn Close and Michelle Pfeiffer* in fine adaptation of Laclos's novel about a wager that turns very wrong (665096)
1.45am Parker Kane (1989). A private eye goes under cover in order to discover the murderer of his best friend (91538874)
3.50 Amityville 4: The Evil Escapes (1989): A *lamp bought in an Amityville yard sale brings* trouble to its new owners (3164042) To 5.00

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
6.15am Challenge To Be Free (1974). A young fur trapper is chased on the frozen tundra (949805)
8.15 Windwalker (1981): A dying Cheyenne warrior tells his grandsons about the murder of their grandmother (132183)
10.15 Silk Stockings (1957): Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse in Cole Porter musical comedy (152947)
12.15pm Buffalo Bill (1944): Fictionalised life of the outlaw (421589)
2.15 King Of The Wind (1989): A mute boy loves a stallion (401725)
4.15 Who's Harry Crumb? (1989): John Candy as a pompous private detective (399541)
6.15 B.L. Stryker — Night Train (1990) Burt Reynolds as a private detective who escorts a young girl on a Manhattan train, only to discover that two gunmen are on her trail (319305)
8.15 Uncle Buck (1989): Comedy with John Candy playing a bachelor forced to look after his nephew and nieces (12920893)
10.05 Sweet Bird Of Youth (1989): Tennessee Williams adaptation, with Elizabeth Taylor as an ageing movie star who is blackmailed by her young lover into getting him into the movie business. Directed by Nicolas Roeg (277522)
11.50 Body Double (1984) Brian dePalma *suspense thriller* (239657)
1.45am A Private Function (1985). Alan Bennett's whimsical comedy involving a pig (228416)
3.25 Night Life (1989). Vampire comedy (986232) To 5.00

THE COMEDY CHANNEL

● Via the Astra satellites. 4.00pm Film: Teen Tanz (2164) 6.00 Car 54, Where Are You? (1725) 6.30 The Monkees (4305) 7.00 In Living Color (2637) 7.30 The Goodies (1589) 8.00 The Comedy Company (84589) 9.00 The Sunday Comics (64725) 10.00 Moonlighting (67812)

SKY SPORTS

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.30am Aerobics (11270) 7.00 Fishing The West (41609) 7.30 World Of Adventure (77928) 8.30 World Sport Special (73034) 9.00 Americas Cup Preview 1991 (48560) 10.30 NFL — The Best Ever (12676) 11.30 WWF Primetime Wrestling (76909) 1.00pm World Professional Figure Skating Champi*onships (23015) 3.00 Ringside (37015) 5.00* Boxing Documentary (7218) 6.00 Live British Rugby League (10980) 8.00 Italian League Football (22725) 10.00 Scottish League Football (48742) 12.00 British Rugby League (84023) 2.00am Scottish League Football (52690)

EUROSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite. 8.00am Trans World Sport (52251) 9.00 Sunday Alive (9849134) 6.00pm Skiing From Austria (15657) 7.30 World Cup Ski Jumping (32287) 8.30 Paris-Capetown Rally (1270) 9.00 World Cup Skiing (15947) 10.30 Boxing (28286) 11.30 Paris-Capetown Rally (26180)

SCREENSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite. 6.00am NBA Action 1992 (10102) 6.30 Pilote (19812) 7.00 Stuttgart International Horse Show (64096) 8.00 International Iceracing 1992 (65725) 9.00 European Cup Basketball (96522) 10.00 International Volleyball (40270) 11.00 Matchroom Pro Box (23251) 1.00pm WICB Basketball (82270) 2.00 *International Showjumping (21003)* 3.00 Gillette World Sport Special (4980) 3.30 African Nations Cup (7947) 4.00 African Nations Cup (5096) 6.00 US Men's Pro Ski Tour 1991/2 (6831) 6.30 African Nations Cup (60831) 8.30 Winter Sportscast-Olympics 92 (4744) 9.00 US PGA Golf Tour 1992 (29638) 11.00 *African Nations Cup (58299)* 12.00 International Iceracing 1992 (86481)

LIFESTYLE

● Via the Astra satellite. 12.00 Ensign O'Toole (60560) 12.30pm McKeever & The Colonel (59183) 1.00 White Shadow (5854541) 1.55 Power Hits USA (469976) 2.50 Spain International Cuisine (5620096) 3.05 Roller Derby (3817299) 4.00 The Great American Gameshows (94676) 5.30 Fashion File (1389) 6.00 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme (5399993) 10.00 Jukebox Music Videos (1156378)

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather
7.00 Morning Concert: Bach (Concerto for oboe and violin, BWV 1060: Academy of St Martin with Heinz Holliger, oboe; Gidon Kremer, violin); Rimsky-Korsakov (Overture, May Night: SNO under Neeme Järvi)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert cont: Poulenc (Piano Concerto: Rotterdam *PO under James Conlon with* François-René Duchable, piano); Offenbach (Ballet of the Snowflakes, Le Voyage dans la lune: Gulbenkian Orchestra under Michel Swierczewski); Chabrier (Suite Pastorale: French National Orchestra under Armin Jordan)
8.30 News
8.35 Music for the Serenissima: The second of six programmes of music by Monteverdi and his contemporaries
9.15 The Juillard Quartet: The pioneering quartet celebrates its 45th year in the first of eight programmes. Schubert (Quartettsatz, D 703); Dvorák *(Piano Quintet, Op 81)*
10.15 Music Weekly: with Peter Paul Nash
11.00 From the Proms 1991: BBC SO under David Atherton with Artur Pizarro, plays Bridge (Enter Spring); Ravel (Piano Concerto in G); Vaughan Williams (A London Symphony, Symphony No 2), incl **11.40** Interval reading (r)
12.40pm Signposts: The second of six memoirs by Gerald Long, *retired chief executive of* Reuters, and now living in France
1.00 News
1.05 Your Concert Choice, with Paul Guinery. Françaix *(L'horloge de flore:* LSO under André Previn, with John de Lancie, oboe); Handel (Suite No 6 in F sharp minor: Andrei Gavrilov, piano); Sarasate (Navarra, Op 33: Mark Kaplan, violin, and Bruno Canino, piano); trad (A Benedicite; This Joyful Eastertide, mono: Steuart Wilson, tenor); Magnard (Symphony No 3 in B flat minor: Toulouse Capitole Orchestre under Michel Plasson)
2.30 Couperin: L'Apothéose de Lully presented by Charles Medlam. London Baroque under Charles Medlam: Ingrid Seifert and Richard Gwilt, baroque violins; Richard Egarr, harpsichord; Charles Medlam, bass viol (r)
3.00 Wozzeck: Opera in three acts by Alban Berg based on the play by Georg Buchner. David Pountney's production *performed at the English* National Opera, conducted by *Mark Elder.* With Donald Maxwell as Wozzeck; Kristine Ciesinski as Marie; Alan Woodrow as the captain; Richard Angas as the doctor; John Treleaven as the drum major; Ethan Robinson as *Margaret; Peter Bronder as* Andres and Edward Byles as the idiot. Simultaneous transmission with BBC 2 (s)
4.40 Poet of the Month: Charles Tomlinson reads a selection of his poems
5.00 Soundings: *Player-Pianos* and Music Boxes. Michael Oliver examines mechanical music
6.00 There was a Birth: Celebration of the festival of Epiphany led by the Rev Stephen Oliver, with the BBC Singers under Simon Joly
7.00 Prokofiev: Scottish National Orchestra under Neeme Järvi plays Dreams, Op 6; Scottish Chamber Orchestra under José Serebrier plays Summer Day, Op 65
7.30 Sunday Play: A Midsummer's Night Dream by William Shakespeare. With Adjoa Andoh as Titania; Hakeem Kae-Kazim as Oberon; Susannah Harker as Helena; Julia Ford as Hermia; James Macpherson as Lysander; Stephen Tompkinson as Demetrius and Emma Fielding as Puck. Music composed and directed by Dominique Legendre (r)
9.55 Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra under Claudio Abbado, with Siiri Schütz, piano: Rossini (Overture, La gazza ladra); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 24 in C minor, K 491); Schubert (Symphony No 2 in B flat, D 125)
11.10 Martino Tirimo, piano, plays Clara Schumann (Sonata in G minor); and Beethoven (15 *Variations and Fugue on a* Theme of Prometheus, Op 35, Eroica) (r) **12.00** News

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM
5.55am Shipping **6.00** News Briefing, incl **6.30** Weather **6.10** Prelude **6.30** News: Morning Has Broken (s)
6.55 Weather **7.00** News
7.10 Sunday *Papers*
7.15 On Your Farm: Is Biomass a money-making crop for the future?
7.40 Sunday, incl **7.55** Weather **8.00** News **8.10** Sunday Papers
8.50 The Week's Good Cause: Anthony Scrivener QC appeals on behalf of Release
8.55 Weather
9.00 News **9.10** Sunday Papers
9.15 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke (r)
9.30 Morning Service: Community Mass from St Gabriel's Retreat, The Graan, Enniskillen
10.15 The Archers. Omnibus edition
11.15 News Stand: with Anne *Spackman (s)*
11.30 Pick of the Week: with Chris Serle (s) (r)
12.15pm Desert Island Discs: Sue Lawley talks to writer, actor and director Steven Berkoff (s)
12.55 Weather
1.00 The World This Weekend
1.55 Shipping
2.00 Gardeners' Question Time: The team visits Norfolk
2.30 Call the Controller: 071 580 4411. Radio 4's network controller Michael Green takes listeners' calls about programmes and policy
3.30 Sunday Playhouse: The Garrick Fever, written by J.R. Planché. It is 1745 and the great actor David Garrick is constantly in demand (s) (r)
4.00 The Power and the Glory? All Politics is Local. James Naughtie asks American political leaders how the US can deliver at home the *success it feels it has won* abroad. In the first of four programmes, he speaks to a mayoral candidate in Boston, Ed Doherty (r)
4.47 The Great Bug Hunt: Martin *Wainwright joins a party of* entomologists on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi (1 of 4) (r)
5.00 News; Coastline: Cliff Michelmore explores Jersey (s)
5.40 Personal Obsessions: Eric Hamilton talks about his passion for the life and music of Glenn Miller (r)
5.50 Shipping; **5.55** Weather
6.00 News
6.15 The Village: *Nigel Farrell* presents a series reflecting the life of Bentley, a rural community in Hampshire (3 of 6) (r)
6.30 Best Behaviour: Table Manners. Nigel Rees discusses whether table manners are necessary (3 of 6) (s) (r)
7.00 The Desert War

● CHOICE: BBC defence correspondent Mark Laity's six-part documentary about the Gulf conflict which began a year ago this week is launched with an all-action episode — the United States-led air attack on Iraq on January 17. No doubt motivated by the thought that if he can get listeners glued to their radio sets in the first half-hour, there's a good chance he will keep them there for the next two-and-a-half, Laity delays the genesis and *chronology of the war until* next Sunday. Technical co-ordinator Mark Tyrrell's terrific contribution to tonight's cockpit-eye-view of day one of the air assault needs to be recorded in print

7.30 Bookshelf. The racy journals of James Boswell and an interview with American writer Ellen Gilchrist (r)
8.00 Concerto: Pianist Moura Lympany talks about her life *and career,* and introduces some of her recordings (s)
9.00 The Natural History Programme (r)
9.30 Special Assignment (r)
9.59 Weather
10.00 News
10.15 A Journey to the Polar Sea. Dramatised account of the 1820 trek by John Franklin across northern Canada (s) (r)
11.00 A Marx Man: Martin Jacques, the historian and editor of *Marxism Today* (r)
11.30 Seeds of Faith
12.00 News
12.20 Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** FM closes/LW joins World Service

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m,1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: 693kHz/433m,909kHz/330m;FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/ 247m. FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m.FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m. 909kHz/330m. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; World Service: MW 648kHz/463m.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. 4.00am Mark James 7.00 The Bruno and Liz Breakfast Show 9.30 Dave Lee Travis 12.30pm Pick of the Pops 2.30 Philip Schofield 4.30 The Complete UK Top 40 7.00 Anne Nightingale's Request Show 9.00 Andy Kershaw 11.00 John Peel (FM only from 12.00) 2.00am Lynn Parsons (FM only)

RADIO 2

FM. 4.00am Barbara Sturgeon 7.00 Don Maclean 9.05 John Sachs 12.00 The Vintage Years 12.30 Desmond Carrington 2.00pm Benny Green; 3.30 Alan Dell 4.00 Palm Court Time 4.30 Sing Something Simple 5.00 Charlie Chester 7.00 Richard Baker 8.30 Sunday Half Hour 9.00 Alan Keith 10.00 Radio 2 Arts Programme: The End of Ealing? George Perry looks back at Ealing Film Studios 12.05am Gyles Brandreth 1.00 Colin Berry

RADIO 5

News on the hour to 1.00pm 6.00am World Service Newsdesk. Meridian Reports 7.30 Sunday Edition 9.00 Johnnie Walker 10.00 AM Alternative 10.30 Education Matters 11.00 Topolski's Travels 11.30 A Century Remembered 12.05 Ring-a-Controller 0345 909693 1.40 Open Forum 2.00 Chain Reaction 2.30 Football Extra: Barclays League (Sheffield Wednesday v Leeds United) 5.05 Bob Holness' Rattle 6.05 Maigret Investigates 6.30 Sportsnite 7.15 Euromix 8.00 Paso Doble 8.30 France Extra 9.00 Deutsch Direkt! 9.30 Dragnet 10.00 Across the Line

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 4.30am World Business Review 4.40 Travel and Weather News 4.45 News and Press Review in German 5.00 German Features. Sunday Feature, Tips for Tourism 5.45 News in German 6.00 Weekend 5.59 Weather 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 7.00 World News 7.09 24 Hours News Summary 7.30 From Our Own Correspondent 7.50 Write On 8.00 World News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 Music with Matthew 9.00 World News 9.05 World Business Review 9.15 Short Story: Cucumbers and Mint 9.30 Folk in Britain 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 News Summary 10.01 Science in Action 10.30 In Praise of God 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Londres Midi News in French 11.45 Mittagsmagazin News in German 11.59 Weather 12.00 World News 12.01pm Play of the Week: Yasuhara — The Blind Master Minstrel 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News Summary 2.01 Japan And The West 2.30 Anything Goes 3.00 World News 3.15 Concert Hall 4.00 World News 4.09 News about Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 4.45 German Features Aktuelles Feature Brief aus Berlin 4.59 Travel News 5.00 World News & Business Review 5.15 Club 5.30 Londres Soir. News and features in French 6.14 BBC English 6.29 News Summary 6.30 News in German 6.45 German features: Kommentar, Bildpunkt Religion, Schallplatte der Woche, Tips fur Touristen Sunday Feature. Apropos, Contrepoint London 7.54 News in German 8.00 World News and Business Review 8.15 Londres Dernière News in French 8.30 Europe Tonight 9.00 Newshour 10.00 World News 10.05 Folk in Britain 10.20 Meridian 10.50 Sports Roundup 11.00 World News 11.05 World Business Review 11.10 Book Choice 11.15 Letter from America 11.30 Japan And The West 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30 In Praise of God 1.00 News Summary 1.01 Play of the Week: The Power and The Glory 1.45 The Mozart Phenomenon 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Composer Of The Month: Franz Liszt 3.00 World News 3.09 News about Britain 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Anything Goes 4.00 Newsdesk

COMPILED BY GILLIAN MAXEY AND CAROLINE DONALD
TV CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Ukraine counts on coupons to kill the rouble and inflation

From ROBERT SEELY
IN KIEV

REUSABLE coupons were introduced yesterday into the money supply of the newly independent Ukraine as the penultimate step towards circulating its own currency by the summer.

The move to "surrogate" money and the ditching of the rouble will further strain the economic and political relationship between Ukraine's leaders and the Russian federation after this week's dispute over ownership of the Black Sea fleet.

Unless Russia can quickly introduce its own currency or equivalent coupons, the Federation is likely to become the dumping ground for hundreds of millions of unwanted roubles, fuelling its severe inflation. Russian banking authorities said yesterday that they are to issue chequebooks for large rouble purchases.

Ukraine's state-owned shops, still waiting to be privatised, turned away roubles yesterday and accepted only coupons. "If you want to use the Muscovite rouble, go to Russia," a salesgirl in the Ukrainia department store in Kiev snapped.

Despite explanations on television, radio and in the press, reaction to the coupon "currency" was greeted with pessimism by shoppers already hit hard by price increases of between 200 per cent and 500 per cent introduced on January 2.

Black marketeers trading the coupons valued the coupon/rouble rate at 1:5, with 30 coupons or 150 roubles to a dollar. This is half the official rate expected to be announced by the Ukrainian national bank.

The coupon's immediate role may have been to encourage people to attend work in a society not given to fastidious timekeeping. Sasha Marchenko, aged 28, from Kiev, said: "This is the first time people have been concerned about their jobs: they know they can collect these confounded coupons only at state enterprises."

State employees are guaranteed a minimum 25 per cent of their salary in coupons, with a ceiling of 600 per month. Foreigners can start to buy them on Monday.

Rents, payments for public facilities and taxis can still be settled in roubles, as may business transactions. The Kiev government expects the coupons, provided they stand the test of public confidence, to mature into roughly the equivalent of M3 money.

The Ukrainian hope is that they will help to smother inflation, through stricter control on printing of money than in Russia. The major worry, however, is that with Ukraine's monetary policy controlled only in part by the Ukrainian national bank and government, food and goods could still be lost to the republic if price differentials make Ukraine a cheap place for hungry Russians to shop.

Russia is expected to announce the terms for partial convertibility of the rouble later this month. Georgy Matyukhin, head of the Russian central bank, said yesterday that the exchange rate levied on foreign investors will be eight or ten roubles against the dollar, which compares with a rate of between 140 and 160 roubles presently available at commericial banks.

Military deal, page 8
Leading article, page 11
Debt default, page 17

Muslims censure athlete

Continued from page 1

of the Soviet Union, of a fourth title. Boulmerka produced the form she had shown on the grand prix circuit — a far cry from a championship arena — to prevail by just 0.37s.

She had led the year's world rankings before the championships, and gave a clue to her modern thinking when she said: "My father lived in France for 18 years and had a different mentality."

The Moroccan middle-distance runners Said Aouita and Brahim Boutayeb spend long periods training in Italy, and Ottavio Castellini, of the Italian athletics federation, said: "As a foreign athlete, if she ever wants to run for Italy, she would have to run for an Italian club for three years first."

Boulmerka: first Algerian female world champion

A £170 portrait makes £6m

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

AGNEWS, the London art dealers, look set to make £5.8 million from the sale of a single painting, a portrait of Pope Clement VII by Sebastiano del Piombo.

The company will receive £6.3 million for the painting bought four years ago for £418,000 if it obtains permission to export it to the Getty Museum in California.

Sotheby's, the auction house, had failed to identify the painting in 1987 and sold it as "Italian School, nineteenth century" for £170.

Six months later, the buyer took it to Christie's, who sold it to Agnew's as a fully-attributed work by the High Renaissance Venetian artist.

Sotheby's will not name their unfortunate valuer, but it is understood that the company paid compensation to the original vendor. Would-be British buyers have until February 16 to try to match the price to keep it in the UK.

Saturday Review, page 16

High-price art: Sebastiano's Pope Clement VII

Cash offer to save Alzheimer team

Continued from page 1

States and cited poor salaries paid to medical researchers in Britain as their chief reason for going.

In a letter in *The Times* today, however, Professor Peter Richards, dean of St Mary's, says he has "received assurances from benefactors which will enable the core of the team to remain here".

He said that a private donor had offered to back the research at St Mary's for four years. "As a result of the press coverage, we have received a very generous offer, sufficient in my view to meet all the essential requirements of all members of the team to stay here if they want to," he said.

Two of the four team leaders, Dr John Hardy and Dr Mike Mullan, have already signed contracts to work at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Dr Alison Goate has been offered a job by Washington University, St Louis, but has not yet decided whether to accept. Dr Martin Rosser, a consultant neurologist, is staying.

Professor Richards said the funding offer was conditional on Dr Goate agreeing to stay. "She's the person I want to keep," he said. "All I need is a first-rate researcher like her to work with a first-rate clinician like Dr Rosser, and we can rebuild the team."

Dr Goate, who earns £18,000 a year, said yesterday she would consider any new offer. "But my husband is a scientist too and he's unhappy with his job because of the lack of adequate funding. Wherever we end up we will both have to be happy."

Dr Hardy was in The Netherlands yesterday to receive the Peter Debje prize, worth £6,000, for his work on Alzheimer's. His wife Elizabeth said: "It will go to pay off our £7,000 overdraft."

● *The Times* Christmas appeal for the Alzheimer's Disease Society has raised over £23,000, including one donation of £1,000 and several of £500. A total of 743 readers contributed. Donations, marked *The Times* appeal, may still be sent to the society at 158-160 Balham High Road, London SW12.

Letters, page 11

Bombers hit Whitehall

Continued from page 1

mittee, called for a parking ban in Whitehall.

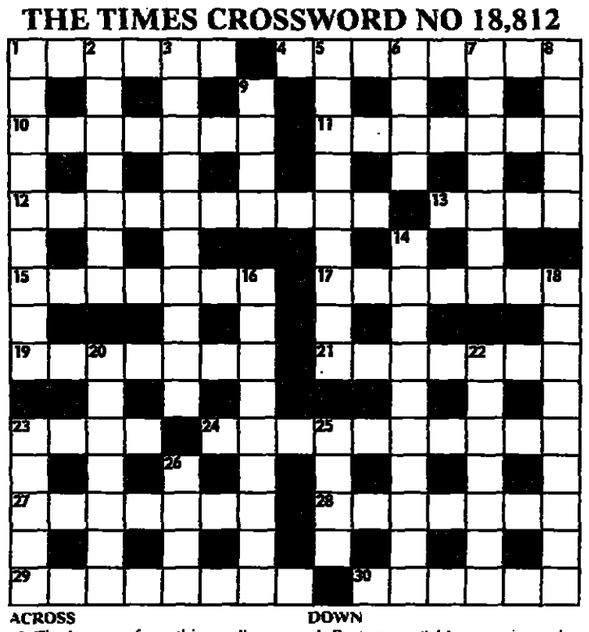
But Neil Kinnock said: "Democracy must make no concessions whatever to the kind of attacks which terrorists make. That would be the only kind of perverse victory they could get and we must deny them even that victory." Paddy Ashdown added that the IRA was living in cloud cuckoo land if it thought Britain could be terrorised into submission.

Besides its attack in London, the IRA caused serious disruption across Northern Ireland yesterday, with scores of bomb alerts, including two on car ferries preparing to sail from Larne in Co Antrim. Other bomb warnings also turned out to be hoaxes, but they caused chaos in and around Belfast.

The alerts came after overnight firebombings of furniture and carpet stores in Ballymena and a car bombing in Londonderry that slightly injured a soldier.

Guessing game, page 2
Defeating IRA, page 10

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,812



ACROSS

1 Tingle is got from this small current (6).
4 Doctor calls back after 45 minutes (8).
10 Output carried by unusual transport (7).
11 He wrote about sin to the people in Jerusalem (7)
12 Europeans who go to Rome for religious service (5,5).
13 Prince's portrait painter (4).
15 Scrap merchant losing heart after strange occurrence (7).
17 Drifting mile at sea in a vessel (7).
19 Concocts pronouncement for this town (7).
21 Cast selected one way to revive play (5-2).
23 Protest involving most of the people (4).
24 Sort of horse we ride, perhaps, that's prepared for fences (6,4).
27 Close associate runs into trouble (7)
28 It's not so simple for a connoisseur (7).
29 Thing imported from France (4,4).
30 Port that's frozen in December, generally? (6).

DOWN

1 Beat veteran? It's a starting point (9).
2 Made a comeback in theatre with song (7).
3 Gold coin appropriate? That's the style! (5,5).
5 Broadcast on TV bears watching intently (9).
6 Notes about unspecified quantity (4).
7 Unnatural for male to precede female, say (3-4).
8 Office in church cardinal points out? (5).
9 Part of computer display that shows fare details (4)
14 Disrespect about king is not sensible behaviour (10).
16 She leaves a shell with Beatrice (9).
18 Sinner had gone wrong — ends up in court (9).
20 See a wild animal and hear it (7).
22 Chalk that's fished out of the sea (7).
23 Name first-rate port (5)
25 Polish expert (4).
26 Organizer of courses, caught male and female together (4)

Solution to Puzzle No 18,806

BEFOG BLACKJACK
O A R U V N P N
TOTHELIFE AROSE
A A E L N C L A
NYLON TRUNKROAD
Y H I E G
BASSOON SAPLING
A E R O S O
YEARNED COLLECT
U R H A O
CORNCRAKE RENEW
R C A W R I A A
ASHES IRONSIDES
S I E N O E I T
HINDSIGHT DIRGE

Solution to Puzzle No 18,811

APOGEAN MARIMBA
L B A O I E U B
BASIS SIDEISSUE
A E T Y S G T A
TURNER PHANTASM
R V N H I N
OREAD ASPARAGUS
S E N M O H
SUPERNOVA QUOTE
O V N U R A
EXPORTER SEXIST
S U O R H F G H
TALKATIVE OKAPI
O A S A R R M N
PURITAN BATTING

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

SASSABY
a. The bastard hartebeest
b. Sweet sassafras infusion
c. An Indian debt collector

LIPOSUCTION
a. A French kiss
b. A type of drainage sewer
c. Mechanical dieting

UMIAK
a. A woman's open skin boat
b. An Eskimo language
c. Dried seal's blubber

CUNJEVOI
a. A troubadour's envoi
b. A Basque form of hockey
c. A marine animal

Answers on page 13

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE	
C London (within N & S Circs)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Concise crossword, page 13

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: F R Thorley, Wedderburn Close, Winnersh, Berks; A D Wallis, Kimpton's Mead, Potters Bar, Herts; J Davenport, Lion House Park, Hailsham, E Sussex; M D Conway, Cherry Orchard Lane, Salisbury, Wilts; H MacArthur, Ashley Rd, Epsom.

WEATHER

Freezing fog in England and Wales may linger, mostly in the Midlands and northern England. It will become bright or sunny, with cloud near Channel coasts. The Channel Islands will be cloudy, with patchy rain. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy, but with brighter breaks; western coasts may have drizzle. The Shetlands will have rain. Outlook: overnight fog may linger. Dry in most parts, perhaps with light rain near Channel coasts.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	15	59	f	Majorca	14	57	s
Akrotiri	15	59	s	Malaga	14	57	s
Alex'dria	17	63	f	Malta	16	61	s
Algiers	17	63	s	Melb'rne	18	64	c
Amst'dm	4	39	s	Mexico C*	19	66	s
Athens	15	59	s	Miami*	26	79	f
Bahrain	14	57	s	Milan	3	37	c
Bangkok	29	84	s	Montreal*	-8	18	c
Barbados*	28	82	f	Moscow	0	32	sn
Barcelna	10	50	s	Munich	4	39	f
Beirut	16	61	s	Nairobi	25	77	f
Belgrade	7	45	f	Naples	14	57	c
Berlin	3	37	s	N Delhi	17	63	f
Bermuda*	19	66	c	N York*	6	43	r
Biarritz	9	48	r	Nice	14	57	s
Borde'x	8	46	c	Oslo	-6	21	f
Brussels	5	41	c	Paris	7	45	d
Budapest	5	41	c	Peking	4	39	s
B Aires*	30	86	s	Perth	25	77	f
Cairo	17	63	c	Prague	3	37	c
Cape Tn	28	82	s	Reykjavik	1	34	c
Chicago*	3	37	c	Rhodes	16	61	f
Ch'church	19	66	s	Rio de J	29	84	c
Cologne	6	43	c	Riyadh	13	55	f
C'phagn	2	36	s	Rome	15	59	f
Corfu	14	57	f	Salzburg	5	41	s
Dublin	3	37	s	S F'risco*	8	46	s
Faro	13	55	s	Santiago*	30	86	s
Florence	10	50	f	S Paulo*	24	75	c
Frankfurt	5	41	c	Seoul	5	41	s
Funchal	19	66	f	Sing'por	31	88	f
Geneva	4	39	c	St'kholm	-3	27	s
Gibraltar	14	57	f	Strasb'rg	5	41	r
Helsinki	-10	14	s	Sydney	20	68	s
Hong K	17	63	s	Tangier	13	55	f
Innsbrck	3	37	f	Tel Aviv	15	59	s
Istanbul	11	52	s	Tenerife	20	68	s
Jeddah	23	73	f	Tokyo	9	48	s
Jo'burg*	29	84	s	Toronto*	5	41	r
Karachi	23	73	s	Tunis	17	63	s
L Palmas	20	68	s	Valencia	13	55	s
Le Tquet	6	43	c	Vanc'ver*	6	43	r
Lisbon	12	54	f	Venice	8	46	r
Locarno	1	34	r	Vienna	4	39	c
London	7	45	s	Warsaw	2	36	f
L Angels*	16	61	s	Wash'ton*	7	45	f
Luxembg	5	41	r	Wel'nton	21	70	s
Luxor	15	59	c	Zurich	1	34	sn
Madrid	6	43	s				

* denotes figures are latest available

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.51	2.35
Austria Sch	20.90	19.40
Belgium Fr	61.30	57.30
Canada $	2.215	2.055
Denmark Kr	11.55	10.80
Finland Mkk	8.25	7.65
France Fr	10.14	9.44
Germany Dm	2.97	2.77
Greece Dr	349.00	324.00
Hong Kong $	14.68	13.68
Ireland Pt	1.117	1.047
Italy Lira	2255.00	2105.00
Japan Yen	246.50	227.50
Netherlands Gld	3.345	3.125
Norway Kr	11.74	10.94
Portugal Esc	257.75	238.75
South Africa Rd	5.50	4.80
Spain Pta	187.50	174.50
Sweden Kr	10.95	10.15
Switzerland Fr	2.65	2.47
Turkey Lira	10000.0	9200.0
USA $	1.90	1.77
Yugoslavia Dnr	DNB	41.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 8C (46F); min 6pm to 6am, 3C (37F). Humidity, 6pm, 73 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 5.6hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6pm, 1028.2 millibars, rising
1,000 millibars=29.53in

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Ventnor, Isle of Wight, 11C (52F); lowest day max: Aviemore, Highland, 1C (34F); highest rain: Ross-on-Wye, Hereford and Worcester, 2.87in; highest sunshine: Belfast, 6.2hr.

SUN, RAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	3.8	0.04	2	36	shower
Anglesey	2.0	0.02	7	45	bright
Aviemore	1.3	-	1	34	snow
Belfast	6.2	0.10	4	39	sunny
Birmingham	-	1.33	3	37	hail
Bognor Regis	-	0.53	8	46	rain
Bournemouth	0.3	0.16	8	46	shower
Bristol	-	0.90	5	41	sleet
Buxton	-	0.30	8	46	cloudy
Colwyn Bay	0.6	0.09	6	43	cloudy
Cromer	-	0.90	5	41	rain
Douglas	0.5	-	5	41	cloudy
Eastbourne	0.2	0.59	9	48	rain
Edinburgh	1.9	0.02	3	37	sunny
Eskdalemuir	1.3	0.06	2	36	snow
Falmouth	0.3	0.16	6	43	cloudy
Folkestone	0.7	0.39	8	46	rain
Guernsey	0.3	0.26	10	50	shower
Hastings	0.2	0.15	9	48	shower
Jersey	1.6	0.20	10	50	shower
Kinloss	2.3	0.01	3	37	bright
Leeds	2.8	0.29	7	45	snow
Lerwick	4.3	-	1	34	sunny
Littlehampton	-	0.48	8	46	rain
London	-	0.06	9	48	rain
Lowestoft	-	1.44	5	41	rain
Manchester	2.5	0.17	7	45	sunny
Minehead	-	1.24	5	41	cloudy
Newcastle	3.4	0.17	6	43	shower
Penzance	-	0.48	9	48	gale
Plymouth	0.3	0.20	6	46	cloudy
Prestwick	5.8	0.02	4	39	sunny
Scarborough	3.0	0.13	6	43	sunny
Scilly Isles	0.1	0.55	7	45	gale
Shanklin	1.9	0.10	10	50	bright
Southsea	0.5	0.14	9	48	rain
St. Ives	-	0.03	8	46	dull
Stornoway	5.3	0.02	4	39	sunny
Swanage	0.7	0.24	9	48	shower
Teignmouth	-	0.37	6	43	shower
Tiree	2.2	-	5	41	bright
Torquay	0.7	0.48	6	43	cloudy
Wick	2.9	-	3	37	snow
Worthing	0.2	0.13	9	48	shower

These are Thursday's figures

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

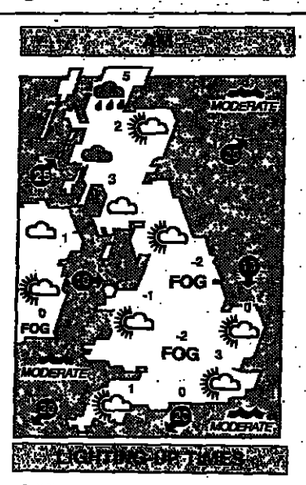
Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

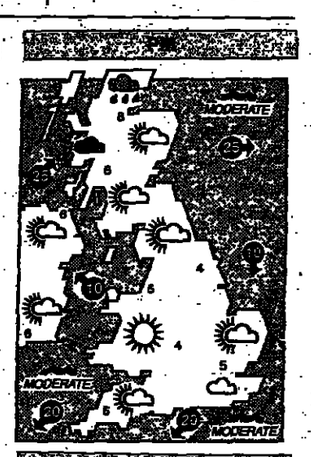
MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 5C (41F); min 6pm to 6am, 0C (32F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 6.3hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 5C (41F); min 6pm to 6am, −7C (19F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.5hr





LIGHTING-UP TIMES

TODAY
London 4.14 pm to 8.02 am
Bristol 4.24 pm to 8.12 am
Edinburgh 4.03 pm to 8.38 am
Manchester 4.13 pm to 8.20 am
Penzance 4.42 pm to 8.18 am

TOMORROW
London 4.15 pm to 8.02 am
Bristol 4.25 pm to 7.11 am
Edinburgh 4.05 pm to 8.37 am
Manchester 4.14 pm to 8.20 am
Penzance 4.43 pm to 8.17 am

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	1	34	f	Guernsey	6	43	c
B'mghm	4	39	s	Inverness	5	41	f
Blackpool	3	37	s	Jersey	6	43	f
Bristol	4	39	s	London	7	45	s
Cardiff	6	43	s	M'nchster	4	39	s
Edinburgh	2	36	s	Newcastle	2	36	s
Glasgow	0	32	f	R'nldsway	5	41	s

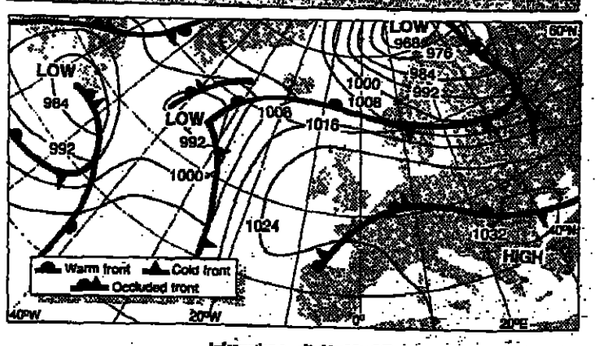
HIGH WATER

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5.12	6.5	5.44	6.5
Aberdeen	5.04	3.7	4.55	3.9
Avonmouth	10.41	11.6	10.55	11.3
Belfast	2.29	3.1	2.39	3.4
Cardiff	10.26	10.8	10.40	10.5
Devonport	8.52	4.9	9.14	4.7
Dover	2.16	6.2	2.33	5.8
Falmouth	8.22	4.7	8.44	4.5
Glasgow	4.17	4.5	4.29	4.6
Harwich	3.04	3.7	3.34	3.6
Holyhead	1.44	4.8	1.58	5.1
Hull	9.56	6.5	10.03	6.8
Ilfracombe	9.25	8.1	9.41	7.8
King's Lynn	10.02	5.5	10.01	5.9
Leith	6.28	4.8	6.20	4.9
Liverpool	2.29	8.2	2.47	8.5
Lowestoft	12.33	2.4	1.39	2.0
Margate	3.14	4.5	3.46	4.3
Milford Haven	9.46	6.2	10.02	5.9
Newquay	8.40	6.2	8.57	5.9
Oban	9.13	3.8	9.14	3.4
Penzance	7.58	4.9	8.22	4.7
Portland	9.56	1.8	10.22	1.6
Portsmouth	2.37	4.4	2.42	4.2
Shoreham	2.24	5.6	2.41	5.2
Southampton	2.21	4.1	2.28	4.0
Swansea	9.52	8.2	10.12	7.8
Tees	7.24	4.6	7.28	4.8
W'ton-on-Nze	2.57	3.9	3.29	3.8

TOMORROW	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5.44	6.4	6.21	6.2
Aberdeen	5.49	3.5	5.42	3.8
Avonmouth	11.15	11.1	11.30	10.8
Belfast	3.12	3.1	3.24	3.3
Cardiff	11.00	10.4	11.15	10.1
Devonport	9.27	4.8	9.56	4.6
Dover	2.53	6.0	3.15	5.7
Falmouth	8.57	4.6	9.26	4.4
Glasgow	4.58	4.3	5.10	4.5
Harwich	3.41	3.7	4.16	3.5
Holyhead	2.25	4.7	2.42	4.9
Hull	10.35	6.3	10.47	6.6
Ilfracombe	10.03	7.8	10.21	7.5
King's Lynn	10.39	5.3	10.42	5.6
Leith	7.13	4.6	7.13	4.8
Liverpool	3.07	8.0	3.29	8.2
Lowestoft	1.13	2.3	2.16	2.0
Margate	3.50	4.4	4.30	4.2
Milford Haven	10.24	6.0	10.44	5.7
Newquay	9.20	6.0	9.41	5.7
Oban	9.50	3.4	9.54	3.2
Penzance	8.36	4.8	9.08	4.6
Portland	10.29	1.7	10.55	1.6
Portsmouth	3.17	4.3	3.25	4.1
Shoreham	2.59	5.4	3.22	5.2
Southampton	3.03	4.0	3.15	3.9
Swansea	10.31	7.9	10.54	7.6
Tees	8.09	4.4	8.13	4.6
W'ton-on-Nze	3.38	3.9	4.12	3.7

Tide measured in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

MOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

TODAY — Sun rises: 8.03 am — Sun sets: 4.14 pm — Moon rises: 10.10 am — Moon sets: 11.39 pm — First quarter January 13

TOMORROW — Sun rises: 8.02 am — Sun sets: 4.15 pm — Moon rises: 10.28 am — Moon sets: 12.51 am — First quarter tomorrow

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THE TIMES
BUSINESS

SATURDAY JANUARY 11 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

MONEY

Profile

Bob Tyrrell, head of the Henley Centre for Forecasting, says he is opinionated and obsessive and has an iron will over diets, drinking alcohol, watching television and everything else in his life, including rejecting pay rises as "bad for the soul". Gillian Bowditch probes his unshakeable self-confidence ..... Page 19

Allied froths

Shares in Allied-Lyons, the food and drink combine, briefly shot ahead by 80p at the stock market's opening on talk of a bid from a big transatlantic group. Stock market report ..... Page 20

Crèche crush

Childcare tax concessions campaigners are increasing pressure in the Budget run-up. They want tax breaks for workplace nurseries extended to all parents who get help from employers ..... Page 21

Letters ..... Page 26

Wait and see

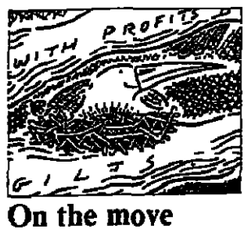
People investing lump sum redundancy payments must be wary of advisers eager to put their money into unsuitable products, says Moira Elms of Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountant. She advises putting the cash on deposit rather than tying it up immediately. For many people, the amount involved is by far the largest they have ever had to handle, and a wrong decision can waste funds that may be vital to tide them over until they are re-employed ..... Page 22

Short fuse

Shareholders in PowerGen and National Power must sell their shares before January 24 if they wish to avoid paying the second instalment, due by February 4 at the latest ..... Page 22

Balancing act

A surprising number of people are still unaware of their current bank balance, and are willing to write cheques without ensuring the necessary funds are in their accounts ..... Page 22



On the move

As interest rates fall, savers are withdrawing money from their building society accounts to invest in better earners, such as gilts, income trusts and with-profits bonds ..... Page 23

Worse than expected forecast accompanies change of chairmanship

Ratners braced for plunge into £72m loss

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

GERALD Ratner is stepping down as chairman of Ratners Group in favour of James McAdam, the former deputy chairman of Coats Viyella. The appointment accompanied news that Ratners is set to make a loss of about £72 million for the year to February 1. Holders of the ordinary shares will not receive a dividend.

The trading news was much worse than the City had expected. The highest analyst's estimate of losses had been £35 million. Last year, the group made £112 million profits.

Mr Ratner, who had been looking for a chairman for some time but who had previously resisted pressure to split the roles of chairman and chief executive, welcomed Mr McAdam, who is aged 61. Mr Ratner said: "I'm convinced I've got the right man for the company."

A statement said the trading position was about break even, but £27 million of interest costs and £45 million of exceptional charges would push the group into a loss.

The exceptional charges include the costs of rationalising the business — 10 per cent of the workforce has been cut in the last year. There are also additional bad debt provisions in America for creditors defaulting on payments to Kays Jewelers and provisions for future rationalisation and reorganisation. A large proportion of the 20,000 workforce will be cut, and up to 100 stores are due for closure.

The statement said 1991 had proved to be an exceptionally difficult year for retailing and the Christmas period had been particularly disappointing. In the six weeks up to Christmas, overall sales were 15 per cent below last year.

In Britain, where Ratners has 30 per cent of the jewellery market through Ratners, H Samuel, Ernest Jones and Watches of Switzerland, sales in the six-week period were 15 per cent down on last year. At Salisburys, the handbag and luggage chain, sales were up 2 per cent. Overall, the British business will make a trading loss in the current year.

There was a significant downturn in second-half spending in America, where the group has 6 per cent of the jewellery market. Overall, sales in December were 11 per cent below the 1990 level. At Sterling, the American chain acquired in 1987, sales were 7 per cent down, while those at Kay, the chain bought in 1990, were 16 per cent down, although the comparison is distorted by post-acquisition stock clearances in the previous year.

The group's net debt in December was £217 million and will remain at that level at the year end. Mr McAdam, who has met Ratners' bankers, said he could not comment on speculation that the group would breach one of the interest covenants on its loans, but indicated that there would be no need for a refinancing before this autumn, if at all. The dividend on the group's American preference shares, due on January 15, is being kept under review.

Mr McAdam said: "The issue of the preference dividend is a very sensitive one. I cannot add to the statement. We've been up front on the ordinary shares and said there will be no final dividend. On the preference shares, it's a different matter. It's a much more high profile, sensitive issue".

Ratners is conducting a review of its British operations and trading strategy, which is likely to lead to further rationalisation. Working capital has been reduced and cost inflation is below 10 per cent. Cost levels continue to be reviewed.

Ratners is assuming that there will be no significant improvement in trading conditions in the current year. Its priorities are to sharpen the focus in each of its market sectors while continuing to enforce tight cash management and strict cost controls.

The group's main bankers gave their support to the new chairman. In a joint statement, Barclays and Midland said: "We have a long-standing connection with Ratners Group. We welcome and support Mr McAdam's appointment, which was discussed with us, and we will maintain our close working relationship with the company on an ongoing basis."

Ratners shares dipped to 18p after the announcement, equalling their lowest, before recovering to 21½p. They closed at 21p, way down from their 1991 peak of 191p.

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Handing over: James McAdam (left) yesterday with Gerald Ratner, the man he replaces as chairman

Relaxed start for low-profile Scot

GERALD Ratner could not have picked anyone more unlike himself than James McAdam for the job of chairman of the empire which he has built up over the last seven years.

While Mr Ratner has rarely been out of the news since he took control of the family business, Mr McAdam, who joined J&P Coats in 1945 at the age of 15 and rose to deputy chairman of Coats Viyella, has a profile lower than the price of a pair of Ratners earrings. Most retail analysts had never heard of him before yesterday's appointment.

Even so, Mr McAdam appeared relaxed in Ratners' Mayfair headquarters. His office, which is joined to Mr Ratner's by a connecting door, is smaller but just as lavishly furnished. Mr McAdam was taking no chances yesterday. He brought in his own public relations advisers to handle his appointment to the group which has the highest PR profile — if not the greatest reputation — in the retail sector.

He admitted to having thought long and hard before accepting the appointment which is seen by many as the corporate challenge of 1992. A mutual friend had asked him if he would be interested in the job three weeks ago, and he accepted last week after talks with Mr Ratner and his bankers. He is sufficiently relaxed not to have signed a contract or agreed final terms for his salary, but he says that the amount of his pay will not worry anyone when it is revealed in the accounts.

> 'We both feel very comfortable with the chemistry. I have respect for him and I think we'll make a good team'

Mr McAdam is a straight-talking Scot who was educated at Lenzie Academy, near Glasgow. His job now is to regain the City's confidence, which has been badly dented by the news of a £72 million loss at Ratners for the current year.

The job, he says, is full time and his appointment will free Mr Ratner to do the thing he does best — running the shops. "It's more than a full-time job for one person, at the moment," says Mr McAdam. "I will be tackling the financial issues and looking at the organisation and the structure. Gerald will be running the commercial side of the business. I think we complement each other. We both feel very comfortable with the chemistry. I have a real respect for him and I think we'll make a good team."

Mr McAdam says his priorities are keeping a tight rein on cash control and keeping costs down. He said: "They've already cut the head count by 10 per cent and they've managed to achieve single-figure cost inflation against a background of major increases in high street rents. I think they've done a pretty good job, but I don't know if it's gone far enough at this point. Looking at that is high on my agenda, as is visiting the United States." Ratners has the equivalent of 20,000 full time employees and Mr McAdam indicated that this would be one area he would be looking at. Shop closures and asset sales are also on the cards, although with 2,000 stores in Britain and America, Mr McAdam said Ratners could afford to shut a large number without affecting market share or group turnover.

Pound tumbles against dollar

BY NEIL BENNETT

THE dollar continued to surge upwards yesterday, after the world's foreign exchange markets were encouraged by better than expected American employment data.

Sterling tumbled almost four cents against the dollar during trading in London and fell marginally against the mark. At the Bank of England's official 4pm close, the pound had slipped to $1.8055, down 3.95 cents. The fall means the pound has lost more than seven cents since Wednesday evening.

Against the mark, sterling eased to DM2.8386, from DM2.8404. The falls reduced the pound's trade-weighted index 0.6 to 90.4.

Sterling continued to lose ground in New York, reaching $1.7870 by lunchtime, although it stabilised against the mark.

The dollar's rise was sparked by the publication of last month's American employment statistics. These showed a 31,000 rise in the number of people in work, while analysts had been expecting a fall of up to 70,000.

Economists said the figures showed the American economy had grown slightly during the month and that the Federal Reserve would not cut interest rates this month.

Other analysts said that the optimism was overdone and the sudden rise in the dollar was unjustified. The largest increase in payroll numbers came from the state and local government sector, while manufacturing jobs fell 32,000. Jim O'Neill, head of research at Swiss Bank Corporation, said that the Fed funds rate could be cut by up to 0.5 per cent next month.

Bush criticised, page 7

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8055 (–0.0395)
German mark
2.8386 (–0.0018)
Exchange index
90.4 (–0.6)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1874.2 (–30.6)
FT-SE 100
2477.9 (–20.0)
New York Dow Jones
3186.27 (–23.26)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
22381.90 (–731.74)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10½%
3-month Interbank 10⅝-10½%
3-month eligible bills: $10\frac{5}{32}$-$10\frac{3}{32}$%
US: Prime Rate 6½%
Federal Funds 3⅞%*
3-month Treasury Bills 3.83-3.81%*
30-year bonds $106\frac{7}{32}$-$106\frac{9}{32}$*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.7963	£: $1.7950*
£: DM2.8363	$: DM1.5820*
£: SwFr2.5293	$: SwFr1.4080*
£: FFr9.6737	$: FFr5.3935*
£: Yen228.13	$: Yen126.99*
£: Index 90.4	$: Index 82.2
ECU £0.717051	SDR £0.767686
£: ECU1.394600	£: SDR1.302615

London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $356.65 pm $357.90
close $357.40-357.90 (£198.60-199.10)
New York:
Comex $357.75-358.25*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) .... $17.50 bbl ($17.15)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.6 November (1987=100)

* Denotes midday trading price

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Western banks prepared for more concessions

Russia threatens debt default

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

WESTERN banks are ready to accept more concessions on debt repayments by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), according to banking sources, amid threats by the Russian republic that it will otherwise declare a unilateral debt default.

At a meeting with bankers in Frankfurt next week, Vneshekonombank, the former Soviet Union's foreign trade bank, is expected to propose a short-term suspension of interest rate payments. The move will add to uncertainties over the debt of the former Soviet Union. The latest talks come a month after a deal was reached over the suspension of repayments of principal debt.

Georgi Matyukhin, head of the Russian central bank, was yesterday quoted by Reuter as saying that Russia will ask foreign banks to accept a suspension of interest payments "until we solve our internal problems". He added that "if they do not understand, then we have to declare Vneshekonombank bankrupt". Such a threat, if carried out, is tantamount to a debt default, putting at risk what is estimated to be $60 billion worth of foreign debt.

German and French banks have the greatest exposure to Soviet debt, but most of that and those debts to other nations are covered by government guarantees, placing the main risk of an eventual Soviet debt default in the hands of western taxpayers.

Matyukhin: suspension

Mr Matyukhin's comments come a month after the steering committee, which is chaired by Deutsche Bank and includes representatives of about ten other western banks, reached agreement with Vneshekonombank under which Russia and the other republics will suspend repayment of the principal of medium to long-term debt — the vast majority of total debt — until the end of March, while maintaining repayments of short-term debt. Russia will resume responsibility of 61 per cent of the former Soviet Union's debt.

Banking sources in Frankfurt have indicated that western banks will show some flexibility towards Russian demands, although this might lead to further provisions against their own-risk exposure to the Soviet Union. Deutsche Bank, which is believed to be the largest creditor bank of the former Soviet Union, has an own-risk exposure of less than DM1.4 billion, less than the bank's Latin American risks. Of that, provisions have been made for 70 per cent until 1990, with further provisions expected for 1991, leaving only a small amount unexposed.

Susanne Gahler, of JP Morgan, the investment bank, estimated that Russia might just be able to repay interest payments throughout the year because of better than expected oil export volumes and hard-currency surrender requirements.

Mr Matyukhin also indicated that Russia will soon introduce an exchange rate of between 8 and 10 roubles to the dollar for foreign investors. This rate compares with a current commercial rate of between 140-160 roubles and a tourist rate of 110 roubles. According to JP Morgan, there will also be a new commercial exchange rate, which will apply to government trade transactions, of 110 roubles to the dollar, against a current 1.7 roubles, and a freely floating interbank rate for private transactions.

Macdonald unable to repay debt

BY OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MACDONALD, the publishing house, was placed in administration yesterday after it was disclosed that it owed Maxwell Communication Corporation, its parent, £33 million, and was unable to repay it.

Price Waterhouse, the accountant, was appointed by the High Court in London as the company's administrator and is in talks with several publishing houses to sell the business. PW is already the administrator for MCC, the collapsed publishing group.

The Macdonald group produces paperback and hardback books, under the Sphere, Abacus and Futura imprints, as well as its own name. Its authors include Catherine Cookson, Norman Mailer, and it publishes Enid Blyton's Noddy series. The company has annual sales of about £25 million. The court heard that Macdonald had debts of £42.7 million and assets of £31.4 million.

هكذا من الأصل

Draft plan should provide starting block of 'final sprint' to deal on world trade

Dunkel confident of Gatt agreement

FROM COLIN NARBROUGH IN GENEVA

ARTHUR Dunkel, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, has set his firmest deadline for reaching agreement on world trade after an encouraging response in private this week to his draft proposals.

Despite fierce public attacks on his 450-page draft agreement by European commissioners and France, the community's largest agricultural exporter, Mr Dunkel appeared confident at Gatt headquarters in Geneva yesterday about securing consensus to use his draft as a basis for making the "final sprint" towards a successful end to the Uruguay round of talks. He foresees the deal being initialled, probably by trade ministers, by easter.

Mr Dunkel said negotiations should be finished before mid-April to allow sufficient time for the extensive package of proposed liberalisation measures to come into effect next January. His renewed confidence follows discussions with negotiators this week before the assessment session on Monday.

Mr Dunkel noted, however, that the process of evaluating his proposals was still going on, which was understandable given that they represented the first complete draft for the complex web of accords on freer trade.

The drafts cover trade in manufactured goods, agricultural produce, services and intellectual property, as well as rules governing international trading. Mr Dunkel said the various elements had so far been largely in the hands of experts and ministries, who had only now been able to put their heads together.

Mr Dunkel said it was up to the 108 governments at the Gatt to make the effort to agree on reduced import tariffs in goods and secure improved market access in the services field, a sector covered by the trade body for the first time. He underlined that the final stage of the round would continue to be guided by the maxim "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed".

On agricultural subsidies, the main reason for the round missing its target of agreement by the end of 1990, Mr Dunkel sought to avoid direct comment on transatlantic disagreement. However, he suggested that many countries that have already indicated their acceptance of his draft proposals would lose interest in the round if the agricultural element was seriously amended.

There was no more time to "pick and choose", he said. He reiterated his fears that the whole package would unravel if participants sought to make important changes in any area. Of the governments that will attend Monday's meeting, he said "they can't take and they can't reject anything" contained in his draft package.

On the question of how much scope remained for change on the substance of his draft, Mr Dunkel said it could be dangerous at this time to be too precise, but that important change would have to be by concensus.

Although fears were raised over the Christmas break that the Gatt round could be in jeopardy because of continued delays and persistent differences on farm subsidies, Mr Dunkel highlighed this week's pledge from John Major, Helmut Kohl, George Bush and Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, to concluding a successful Uruguay round.

He added: "My clear-cut perception is that everybody wants now to settle."

At the new year, British ministers had voiced concern that the whole Gatt round was on a "knife edge".

Mr Dunkel acknowledged that some politically tough decisions were needed, but seemed content to note that the round was "at the top of the political agenda".

European Community trade and agriculture ministers are meeting in Brussels today to try to agree a common stance in time for the Gatt meeting on Monday.

Urging urgency: Arthur Dunkel stresses in Geneva yesterday that agreement on Monday is vital if the Uruguay round is to end successfully

ScotMet directors resign

Gordon Milne has resigned from Scottish Metropolitan Property, where he had been managing director for six years and an executive director for 22 years. Mr Milne's departure came three months after the company reported a pre-tax loss of £8.4 million.

Paul Birch, formerly the director in charge of development activities, is also leaving. Mr Milne's role as managing director passes to Scott Cairns, until now director of property investments.

The company had nothing to say about the departures, but such a restructuring of the board is unlikely to have taken place without the agreement of Guardian Royal Exchange and Royal Insurance, which between them own about 39 per cent of the shares.

Johnston buys

Johnston Press is buying Greenhead Books of Huddersfield, which had net assets of £435,000 at April 28. Johnston has sold Pritchard Bookbinders of Western Australia to the local management for Aus$130,000 (£52,000) cash.

Fittings warns

British Fittings may not receive its full claim for theft at its non-ferrous metals division, in which case profits for 1991 will fall short of market expectations. Stock losses were about £1.1 million.

Losses rise

British Bloodstock Agency has continued to trade in the red, reporting an interim pretax loss of £412,000 (£309,000 loss). Once again, there is no interim dividend..

Takare home

Takare has opened Arran View Nursing Home, in Saltcoats, Ayrshire — Takare's 22nd home and its first in Scotland.

Hanson move

Hanson's warrant holders have approved the consolidation of two warrant issues into one.

Manchester Ship Canal sues KPMG

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MANCHESTER Ship Canal is suing KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountant, for more than £1 million for allegedly giving negligent tax advice.

Hugh Thompson and John Dixon, two of KPMG's partners, resigned as auditors to the company on Christmas Eve, due to the case. Robson Rhodes, already appointed as the ship canal's new auditor, is already working to produce the annual report by the middle of February.

Robert Hough, the company's chairman, said the case relates to advice that KPMG allegedly gave over tax relief on an £8 million contruction project. The company expected that it would receive the relief, worth around £2.6 million, almost immediately. Instead it will not be paid for up to four years, and the company is suing for the additional interest charges it will incur. The claim is unlikely to reach court until next year.

Mr Hough stressed that the company had had a good relationship with KPMG in previous years, and that the firm had not resigned for any other reasons. The accountant was first told of the claim in April but waited for eight months before deciding to resign.

A spokesman for KPMG said the lawsuit would be contested strongly.

BUSINESS ROUND UP

Anglian Water price rise less than allowed

ANGLIAN Water has, after all, raised its prices to customers for 1992-3 by less than was allowed under the regime fixed at privatisation. Prices will rise 9.4 per cent, almost half a point less than the amount permitted, which is 5.5 per cent above inflation in the year to November.

Anglian, which was not given a "green dowry" of cash at privatisation, was the only one of the ten privatised groups not to make an explicit offer in response to the request from Ian Byatt, the director general of water services, that they should voluntarily raise prices less than permitted. Anglian held back its decision and may have been influenced by the upturn in the annual rate of inflation between October and November. Alan Smith, managing director, said Anglian would still accelerate its investment programme to more than £330 million in the year to March 1993.

More time for Brent

BANKS that lent money to Brent Walker, the troubled property and leisure group, have extended the debt agreement until the end of the month. Both a £35 million interim loan, agreed last July and used to finance working capital, and a global facilities agreement have been extended. The extension is to give the company time to start its programme of disposals. Last month, the shareholders agreed a reconstruction to save the group from receivership.

Blackland suspended

SHARES in Blackland Oil, the small explorer quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, were suspended at 12p, "pending shareholder approval of a reorganisation". The shares have suffered a sharp fall in their value recently, on speculation of a rights issue. The company confirmed that it is in advanced discussions about a possible large acquisition, which would involve raising new equity finance. At the suspension price, the company is worth £1.2 million. Last year, the shares reached a high of 25½p. The shares fell 2p on Thursday.

Eisner paid $5.4m

MICHAEL Eisner, chairman of Walt Disney Co, earned $5.44 million last year, including salary and bonus, the company said in its proxy statement. Mr Eisner earned $750,000 in salary and $4.69 million in bonus payments in the year to end-September. Frank Wells, the Disney president, earned $2.75 million in 1991, including a $400,000 salary and a $2.36 million bonus. Disney's earnings were $4.78 a share against $6 in 1990. Bonus payments are related to a formula based on net income and the return on shareholders' equity in previous years.

Lilleshall expands

LILLESHALL has acquired Solarfront, which, through its subsidiary, Crystalware Products, makes a range of plastic houseware products. The consideration was £2.78 million, which has been satisfied by the issue of 1,415,000 ordinary shares in Lilleshall and the payment of £1.43 million in cash. The bulk of the shares have been placed at 96p per share. Lilleshall, in a circular to shareholders, says that the profit for last year will be lower than for 1990, but in the circumstances was likely to be satisfactory. Pre-tax profits at the half-way stage were £1.07 million.

Quicks changes board

QUICKS Group, the Manchester car dealer, has announced a boardroom shake-up and the closure of its troubled vehicle leasing subsidiary. The moves comes after the appointment of Alec Murray as managing director. The directors standing down are James Oldroyd, who has left the company altogether, James Quick and Michael Davis, who have each assumed responsibilities in H&J Quick, the main operating subsidiary.

Consumer caution hits Pepe

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

TRADING down by consumers affected by the recession has hit Pepe Group, the fashion clothing supplier best known for upmarket jeans brands.

Interim pre-tax profits fell 14 per cent from £3.6 million to £3.1 million during the six months to September 29 after rationalisation costs of £500,000 taken above the line as an exceptional item. A £500,000 charge relating to the closure of the Norwegian operations was recorded as an extraordinary item.

The interim dividend is 2p (2.5p). The company said that the reduction should not be seen as an indication of the level of full-year payout.

Some markets, in particular the UK, had seen "a significant move by consumers to cheaper brands". The company added that it would not chase sales but would concentrate on maintaining margins and the market position of the brands. Overseas sales increased from 75 per cent to 80 per cent of the total. The shares fell 5p to 99p.

Tempus, page 20

Recession costs 750 jobs at GEC

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

GEC, Britain's biggest telecommunications manufacturer, is to cut 750 jobs, rounding off a week of large-scale job losses across British industry.

This week's cuts, totalling about 4,000, came too late to be included in unemployment figures that will be published next week by the government. Those are expected to show a rise of at least 30,000.

GPT, which is 60 per cent owned by GEC, will cut the workforce at its Coventry plant by 600. It makes telephones, digital exchanges and fibre optics. Most of the job losses will be among production workers making transmission systems.

The company, which employs 18,000 people, said the cuts were necessary because of the recession and changes in technological and market requirements.

GEC-Marconi Communications, which has extensive interests in the defence and telecommunications industries, said 150 jobs were to go at its plant at Chelmsford, Essex.

This week's job cuts were spread across a range of industries. The biggest losses, 1,200 jobs, will result from British Steel's closure of Ravenscraig in Lanarkshire. Others include 1,000 at Leavesden, near Watford, Hertfordshire, with the closure of Rolls-Royce's helicopter engine plant, and 600 at the G-Plan furniture factory in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, which is to shut.

Company managers, economists and union officials had been bracing themselves for a new round of job shedding after the Christmas and new year break. Employment analysts forecast that there are more losses to come.

☐ UK steel production last year was 13 per cent down on its most recent peak, according to figures released yesterday. Output — of which British Steel accounts for between two thirds and three quarters — was 16.48 million tonnes, 7.6 per cent down on 1990's 17.84 million tonnes and 13 per cent lower than the 18.95 million tonnes produced in 1988.

The low figures mean there might well be even more job losses in the industry.

NHL's troubles claim chairman

BY NEIL BENNETT BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE dire financial problems at National Home Loans, the central mortgage lender, yesterday claimed their first board victim when John Darby, the chairman, told the annual meeting that he is retiring to make way for someone to help restructure the group.

NHL is searching for a new chairman and Mr Darby will step down as soon as a successor is appointed. The company wants someone with strong connections among banks and institutional shareholders to win their help in restructuring and refinancing.

NHL suffered a loss of £46.1 million in the year to end-September because of provisions of £82 million on its £3.9 billion mortgage book, compared with a pre-tax profit of £30.2 million in 1990.

During the summer, NHL was hit by liquidity problems as local authorities withdrew their deposits from smaller institutions after the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. The Bank of England was called in to help arrange a £200 million emergency stand-by facility from a consortium of the high street banks.

John Darby: retiring

Since then NHL has been looking for ways to resolve its financial problems. It considered selling itself to a larger financial group or forming an alliance. But analysts think a sale is unlikely and that the company will create a refinancing package.

Mr Darby's successor will have the job of lobbying the City for support. He will work with Kevin Milner, the chief executive and a group founder.

Mr Darby, a former chairman of Ultramar and Brel Group, told the group's directors in mid-December that he planned to retire. The company has been unable to find a successor.

At the meeting, Mr Darby said that 1991 was disastrous for the company. "It is my firmly held view that whatever route is chosen for NHL, the company should have a different chairman to lead it into the future."

The company was losing money because of the costs of its non-performing mortgages. "Sales of repossessed property since September 30, however, indicate that our provisioning in the accounts was accurate."

BUSINESS PROFILE: Bob Tyrrell

The only place to be is number one

Gillian Bowditch finds the head of the Henley Centre for Forecasting is hardly lacking in self-confidence

Bob Tyrrell, head of the Henley Centre for Forecasting, is doing the Hay Diet, a health diet which involves not eating protein with starch. He has stuck to it for five months and there has not been one slip. Not even a small potato has accompanied a mouthful of meat. Mr Tyrrell, who describes himself as obsessive, has a will of steel.

It is not the first time he has tested his self-discipline. He gave up drinking for ten years after a casual dare from a friend. Not a drop of alcohol passed his lips in that period. At his wedding he drank a lime cocktail designed to look like champagne.

He used to turn down pay rises on the grounds that it was bad for the soul to accumulate excess wealth and he gave up electronic media for two years in order to free himself from all outside influences. "He was a great deal more obsessive in those days than he is now," says his wife, Jean. "He still likes to be in control. If he does something he likes to do it whole-heartedly but he has learned to relax".

Relaxing includes a weekly run and a daily round cycling trip of 18 miles to the office and back. This regime is religously adhered to, even in bad weather and even if he is not feeling well. "He believes in mind over matter," she says.

This extraordinary degree of self-control is one of the reasons he has risen so far so fast. At 41, Mr Tyrrell is a millionaire who is running the premier establishment in Britain for predicting and analysing social trends. He likes to describe himself as a man who gets to the future before the rest of us.

"It's not that difficult to predict the future," he says. "If you spend all your time doing it, you become an expert".

But for those tempted to make a career of crystal-ball gazing there is one essential characteristic needed in large measure, and which he has more than his fair share of: supreme self-confidence.

Once his mind is made up on a subject there is little chance of swaying him although he does admit that there is a vast range of subjects on which he keeps an open mind. His wife says it is almost impossible to win an argument with him. In self-defence he points out that most of his strongly held opinions are based on extensive research. They are not the prejudices of the bar-room bigot.

This makes dinner parties difficult for Mr Tyrrell. "I do find myself occasionally wanting to stand up and show some overhead slides at a dinner party," he admits. "I tend to get into lecture mode. I have to draw myself back at that point. Because I can quote statistics, I'm often tempted to say 'no, you're wrong,' but you can lose a lot of friends that way." But even the ill-informed opinions of his fellow diners, are of interest to him. "It's important to listen to other people's opinions and find out what is behind a particular prejudice, even if, on the face of it, it appears to be empirically invalid," he says.

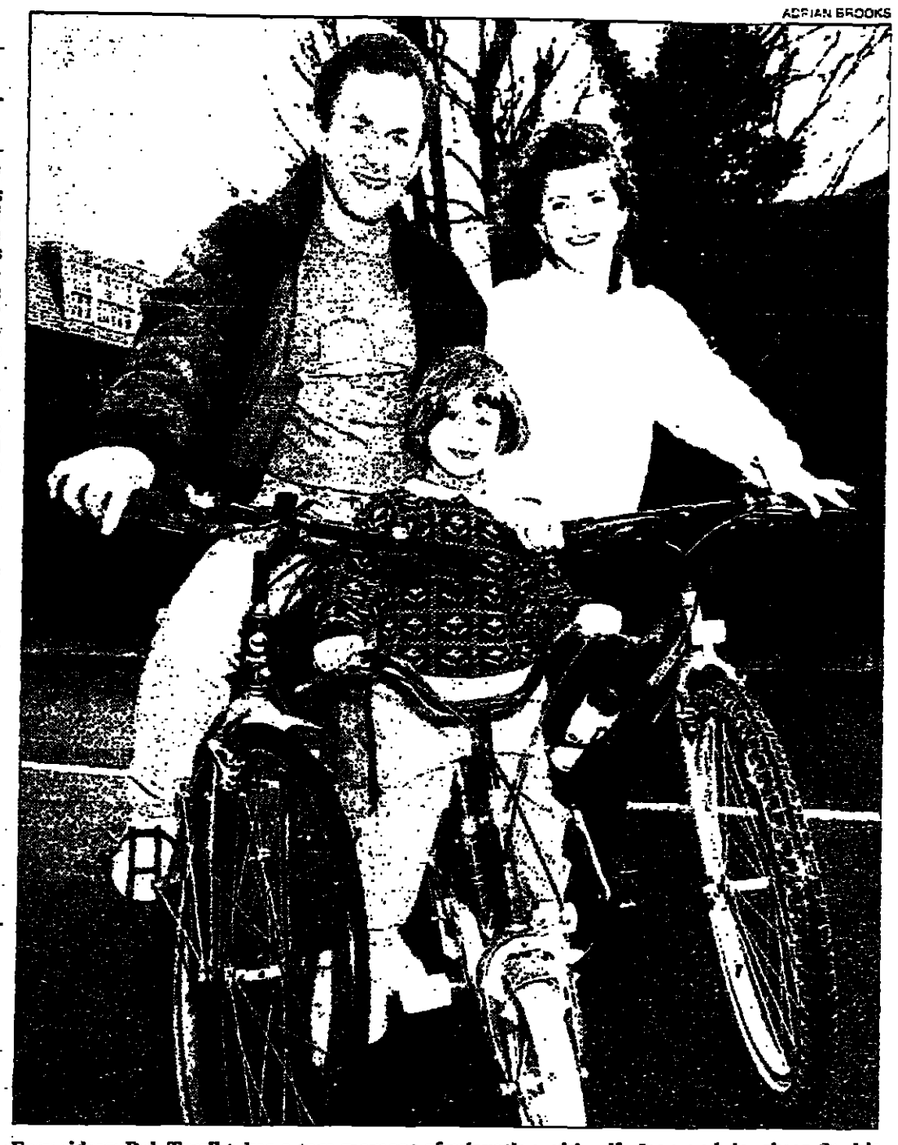
> 'I have always assumed that eventually I would end up at the top'

His biggest problem when introduced to strangers is their assumption that he has something to do with the weather. He was once described as the man who does for the economy what Michael Fish does for the weather. It's a description he dislikes because he says, unlike Michael Fish, he is rarely wrong.

He never properly switches off from work. Even reading a novel or watching a play he will find himself analysing the social trends. "I enjoy the job a hell of a lot but being so involved is probably not doing me a lot of good".

So what sort of skills does one need to become the Gypsy Rose Lee of the financial world? Mr Tyrrell says his great strength, which is shared by other members of the Henley team, is his ability to think imaginatively but also precisely about problems. He can define a problem, quantify it and come up with a solution.

"It's a mixture of intellect and practicality," he says, "and it is a fairly rare combination". The sin of false modesty is not one of which he can be accused.



ADRIAN BROOKS

Easy riders: Bob Tyrell takes a rare moment of relaxation with wife Jean and daughter Sophie

Jeremy Long, former finance director of Mecca Leisure and a client of the Henley Centre, describes Mr Tyrrell's main talent as his ability to express difficult intellectual concepts in easy terms. "Economic forecasting can be a fairly cerebral and dry business but he has a lightness of touch that makes it easy to understand".

His predictions for the Nineties are a mixture of the obvious and the surprising. The general election will be in April and will be won by the Conservative Party. The Budget will be a "positive one" and we might see mortgage interest relief extended from the current £30,000 to £60,000.

Economically the first quarter of the current year will remain sluggish and recovery will come with the spring when the housing market will pick up, fuelled by a further couple of cuts in interest rates. European monetary and political union will not be achieved because it will be eclipsed by, among other things, the issue of immigration in Continental Europe.

On the demographic front, Mr Tyrrell gets no points for his prediction that Britain is middle aging. His skill is in interpreting what that means. "Pre-1960 sons wanted to be like their dads and daughters like their mums. Post-1960 dads wanted to be like their sons and women like their daughters. But one of the things we will see in the 1990s is the end of youth culture. Maturity, sobriety and wisdom will gain currency at the expense of energy and impetousity," he says.

"For example, meals, which have become progressively more snack-like, will become more formal. Pension planning will become sexy and something you talk about to your friends. We may even find that the divorce rate comes down. The cult of individualism will be a continuing truth. Instead of keeping up with the Joneses we will be keeping away from the Joneses".

There will be a resurgence of a new, more dignified form of feminism and as for the "Caring 90s", they are a myth. "People are as self-interested as ever," says Mr Tyrrell. "What is going on at the moment is a bit of conscience appeasment. Take something like environmentalism. When I was at university you couldn't be green and a consumer. The champagne party set was an anathema. Today, provided the champagne bottle is recyclable, consumerism is OK. People believe the way to solve environmental problems is to buy environmentally friendly products, not to cease consuming." He is unforthcoming about his own future although he expects he will stay with the business for another five years. The Henley Centre is owned by WPP and Mr Tyrrell, who owned 20 per cent of the company after a controversial management buyout of the Henley Centre in 1986, became rich in the process of the WPP deal.

> 'The election will be held in April and it will be won by the Conservatives'

He says the business, which was sold on the basis of an earn out, did not achieve its potential price tag of £18.5 million but even if it achieved only half of that, Mr Tyrrell's share would have been £1.85 million. "It wasn't retirement money," he says.

It would have taken an extremely perceptive forecaster to have predicted his success from his early life. His was an unremarkable childhood. He was born on June 6 1951 in South Wales, the son of an engineer. When he was young the family moved to Malaysia and he and his brother Terry Tyrrell, the founder of Sampson Tyrrell, the design group which is also owned by WPP, were sent to boarding school in north London.

From there he went to Oxford and studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics and joined the Fabian society, occasionally demonstrating against education cuts or on behalf of the miners. His rugby career was cut short at Oxford after he broke his neck.

Post-graduate studies at Sussex and Glasgow allowed him to postpone work until he was 23 when he joined James Morrell, founder of the Henley Centre and now an economist at Charterhouse merchant bank. He then worked in America for a spell and on returning to Britain joined the Henley Centre, becoming a director in 1980 and managing director in 1986. In between he did a part-time masters degree in philosophy at the London School of Economics, achieving a distinction.

These days most of his non-working time is spent with his family. He has two small daughters, Sophie aged six and Gracie, four. "I don't have extravagant tastes. What we do have is a nice house in Richmond. With a family you tend to put more weight on money." Hobbies include reading, theatre trips, listening to music, and the occasional Richmond husbands' night out at the bowling ally. These days he says he would find it difficult to vote for the Labour Party and is likely to vote Liberal at the forthcoming election. Institutional religion has left him feeling alienated but he confesses to "feeling that what is inside me is indestructible and therefore there is another level to existence than that which I've experienced".

He describes himself as a mixture of extremes. "In a sense I'm opinionated and determined but there are a lot of areas in which I would acknowledge I do not have a monopoly of wisdom. I can be a little irritating and impatient. I'm definitely obsessive and the overriding obsession is work".

He admits to a large degree of ambition but says he has never been ambitious in a political sense and does not like corporate politics. He denies being competitive.

"My own yard stick is myself. I've always assumed I would end up at the top. At the root of it there is a supreme self-confidence and a self-reliance. The ambition isn't a driving ambition to step all over people but it's a presumption that the only place I can end up in any organisation is number one".

WEEK ENDING | **Matthew Bond**

Waiting to catch the bus to Downing Street

Economic booms, I grow increasingly convinced, are like buses. When you really, really need one, there is never one around. Conversely, when things are generally chipper and accelerated growth is just about the last thing on your mind . . . wham! All of a sudden three come along together, cause immediate economic congestion and make it certain that there will be a very long wait for the next one.

Until this week it seemed equally certain that the man most in need of a boom was poor Norman Lamont. For quarter after quarter he has waited — not patiently, it has to be said — at the economic request stop, peering in vain into the murky gloom.

Like anyone who has waited for a long time at a bus-stop, Mr Lamont has attempted to draw on the influence of higher powers. Through clenched teeth he has promised to be good, promised not to go in for electioneering Budgets, indeed promised just about anything — if only a bus would come along.

But still Mr Lamont waits, occasionally stirred by what at first appears to be a reassuringly large bus but which, unnervingly, always turns out to be a red removal lorry.

The lesson that recoveries are just never around when you need them is one that John Smith, the man who would be Labour's Chancellor, ought to bear in mind. For the launch of Labour's "Made in Britain" strategy this week once again focused attention on the question of who picks up the tab if a recovery is brought about by public sector investment rather than higher consumer spending.

The answer to this taxing question — one perhaps for the next police recruitment examination — is, of course, the public sector or, in other words, our good selves. Mr Smith, astute politician that he is, refuses to quantify the amount by which Labour's increased public expenditure

might exceed Labour's higher tax revenues — the money raised from the hapless "well over £30,000". But what he does say, frequently, is that any gap will be funded by the higher tax revenues produced by a recovering economy.

Here clearly is a man unschooled in the bus-stop theory of economic recoveries, which states quite clearly that the bigger the funding gap and the more urgently a recovery is needed to cover it, the less likely one is to come along. All of which makes it far more likely that Mr Smith will have to look for his money elsewhere. Mr Lamont has wickedly suggested that those earning more than £5,000 might be a good place to start. Naughty, but nous.

The vigor of this pre-electoral banter has confirmed that both Mr Lamont and the prime minister are confident that their political star is once again in the ascendant. This confidence stems from an eve-of-Chevening breakthrough on the thorny problem of how to stop sterling falling below its ERM floor during the hours of darkness.

The plan apparently is this. Mr Major will embark on an immediate, high profile visit to an as yet unspecified foreign power. At the obligatory banquet with the relevant head of state, Mr Major will — at an appointed hour — slide none too discreetly under the table, coughing and spluttering and turning a nasty shade of Tory-blue.

Far fetched, you might think. Well maybe, but look what it did for the dollar this week. For Mr Major, the only question still to be resolved is in which country the fainting fit should occur.

Mr Lamont and his Treasury advisers are pushing hard for Germany. They are apparently united in feeling that it would, in some way, be appropriate that the signal for a sustained revival in the value of sterling should be a picture of an ashen-faced Mr Major lying in the lap of Chancellor Kohl.

After all, they argue, if the Germans are prepared to jack up interest rates and plunge most of western Europe into a second recession simply because their domestic inflation has risen to the undizzy heights of a little over 4 per cent, shouldn't they be prepared to clear up the mess?

Others are pushing for the Ukraine, in honour of a country that woke up to the dangers of economic convergence almost before it had woken up to the idea of being a country.

But wherever this *crise de currency* takes place, recovery is now certain, Messers Major and Lamont believe. True, there are some encouraging signs.

Santa may not have been generous to Gerald Ratner, or particularly kind to Boots, but he did — if the statistics are to be believed — smile upon Dixons, Texas Homecare and used car dealers, with the latter reporting an encouraging 9 per cent rise in hire purchase-funded sales in December.

OK, so we're in for a recovery based on hocked Ford Escorts, driven by Walkman-wearing individuals with a passion for textured ceiling paint. If that is a recovery, this must be Britain.

France challenges Sir Leon in court

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

FRANCE has made another bid to rein in the powers of Sir Leon Brittan, by seeking to scrap the European competition commissioner's agreement with American authorities to exchange information on competition and antitrust investigations.

France has challenged the agreement before the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. The court will probably take at least two years to decide if Sir Leon overstepped his powers when he negotiated it last year.

Officially, the French government has said only that, because the competition accord affects EC relations with a third country, the commission had no right to negotiate it without the approval of the council of ministers. Privately, commission sources say the court challenge reflects French pique at Sir Leon's hard-line stance on mergers, cartels and state-subisidies.

After Sir Leon blocked an attempted takeover of De Havilland, the Canadian plane maker, by ATR, of France,and Alenia, of Italy, last October, the French government accused the commissioner of wrecking European industrial interests by narrow-mindedly wielding the competition rule book.

France and Italy subsequently joined forces and tried to persuade their fellow governments that Sir Leon's competition directorate should work more closely with the industrial policy advisers of Martin Bangemann, the German commissioner, but were given short shrift.

Commission sources say this latest action by France is in the same vein, but also belies the worry in Paris that the competition agreement opens up French industrial policy to more international scrutiny. An American lawyer in Brussels said France, along with other nations, was becoming "very sensitive" about growing commission powers.

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TEMPUS

Pepe's charms fail to excite

PEPE Group, the company behind one of the raunchiest commercials ever to appear on British television, has trouble seducing investors these days. An Eighties glamour stock, Pepe has consistently traded on a low multiple in recent years. That is partly because of its perceived vulnerability as a fashion group, partly because of the illiquidity of the shares.

The interim figures, although respectable in current conditions, are unlikely to set many pulses racing. Pre-tax profits for the half-year to September 29 fell from £3.6 million to £3.1 million after £0.5 million of exceptional reorganisation costs. The interim dividend was, surprisingly, cut from 2.5p to 2p.

The best performance in the group came from America, where sales have doubled and where Pepe has 5 per cent of the market in premium denim jeans. In the UK, which now accounts for only a quarter of sales, trading remains tough, with no sign of an upturn.

There is still a lot to play for in the current year, as the group's most important trading period, the final quarter, has only just begun. However, analysts expect no great improvement; £8 million of pre-tax profit would be regarded as creditable. If exceptional items are stripped out, that would be a performance almost unchanged from last year.

That the company will survive the slump is beyond doubt. It is holding its position as the second biggest UK jeans company after Levi. However, an upward rerating from the current multiple of about seven times prospective earnings does not look imminent. Hold.

Back to business at Smith & Nephew

SMITH & Nephew made a sensible decision in reaching an out-of-court $37.5 million settlement after a $96 million judgment against it. Now everybody can get back to the business of running the company.

The potential liability stemming from litigation over trade secrets could have risen to $112 million because of an interest factor, and legal fees that have already reached a total of £5 million could only have climbed higher.

There had been market concerns, not necessarily well founded, that Smith & Nephew may have had to resort to a fund-raising exercise to meet its final obligations, but that cloud, too, has passed.

The investment profile was also shadowed by takeover thoughts, though who would be prepared for a £1.5 billion goodwill write-off has not been easy to identify.

The legal settlement will involve a net cost of £14 million, to be taken in the 1991 accounts as an extraordinary item, but it frees North American management time to develop the American business.

In London, meanwhile, analysts are fine tuning profit estimates for the year that ended on December 31. They expect pre-tax profits of only £132 million, against £132.1 million in 1990.

The recession takes the blame for that. Profit hopes for 1992 are a little brighter at £140 million to £150 million.

The shares yesterday rose modestly to 143p, where they trade on 15.9 times prospective earnings. At present, they look well priced.

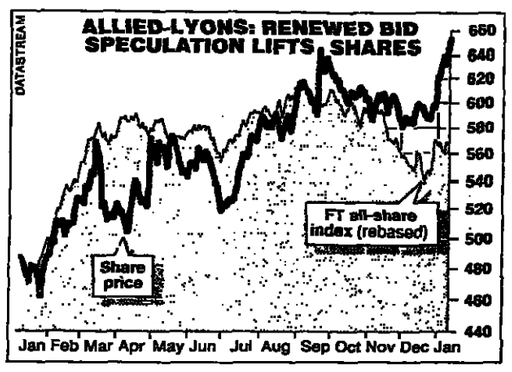
STOCK MARKET

Allied-Lyons soars on £7bn bid speculation

FRESH bid talk put **Allied-Lyons** at the centre of early attention, although most analysts remained sceptical. The shares in the drinks, food and retailing group jumped 80p in early dealings as market-makers were caught short of stock. The jump followed reports in a Canadian newspaper of an imminent joint bid for Allied-Lyons by Philip Morris, the American food and tobacco conglomerate, and Seagram, America's biggest drinks group. The bid was rumoured to be planned at 810p, valuing the group at about £7 billion, against a break-up value estimated at about £10 per share.

Bid rumours have swirled around Allied-Lyons in recent months, based partly on Seagram's likely interest in its drinks' brands and Philip Morris's interest in its other assets. Allied and Seagram are, respectively, third and fourth in the world behind GrandMet and Guinness.

A spokesman for Allied said: "We don't make comments on market rumours." Some 2 million Allied shares were traded in about half an hour, but the speculation died down and the shares subsided to end with a 25p gain at 657p on a volume of 6.3 million shares. A positive start for equities in London was soon reversed with yet another roller-coaster run.



There was a bout of profit-taking and market-makers were not keen to open positions on the last day of the account. Attention turned to Wall Street, where the Dow Jones industrial average ended its record-breaking run, losing more than 20 points in early trading and further depressing sentiment in London.

The last day of the account saw the FT-SE 100 index, which was up 20.4 points at one stage, end 20 lower at 2,477.9, but still achieving a 59.2-point rise on the two-week account. The FT index of 30 shares dived 30.6 to 1,874.2, a rise of 32.4 on the account. Volume reached 589.7 million shares. Government securities were volatile, ending with falls of around £⅞, rattled by lower American and German bond prices and suggestions that Spanish rates will stay put.

As the Allied-Lyons rumour faded, others in the sector lost gains. **Grand Metropolitan**, up 7p, ended 3p down at 922p, **Whitbread A** lost 5p to 446p and **Guinness** eased 2p to 532p. The rumour also fired speculation in some old takeover chestnuts such as **United Biscuits**, up 4p to 414p, while **Cadbury Schweppes**, which has often been mentioned as a likely European target for Philip Morris, rose 5p but drifted to end 1p weaker at 439p.

Ratners lost 2p to 21p after confirmation that Gerald Ratner will step down as chairman. Elsewhere in the sector, **Boots** lost 4p to 422p, **Body Shop** 5p to 326p, **Burton** 1½p to 34p, **Marks and Spencer** 2p to 272p, **WH Smith A** 4p to 429p and **Oliver Group**, which issued a profits warning, 17p lower at 68p.

With most blue chips nursing losses, **Coats Viyella** perked up 8p to 176p as UBS Phillips & Drew highlighted the benefits of the dollar's strength to the company. Currency factors were also good for a gain of 6p to 589p in **Cable and Wireless**.

Tarmac lost 7p to 107p in a generally dull building materials sector as analysts continued to worry over dividend prospects.

Elsewhere in the sector, **RMC** fell 14p to 527p, **Blue Circle** 2p to 219p, **Hepworth** 10p to 344p and **Rugby** 6p to 168p.

Against the trend, **Steetley** firmed 1p to 352p. **Redland**, which is bidding for Steetley and announced acceptances of about 1.7 per cent, ended 4p lower at 436p.

Continued depressed prospects for the housing market saw **Barratt Developments** fall 7p to 45p.

PHILIP PANGALOS

St Ives, the magazine and book printer, fell 27p to 248p after Warburg Securities cut its profit forecasts. The broker has reduced its prediction for the current year, to July, from £23.5 million to £17.5 million. The forecast for the following year has been cut from £30 million to £24 million.

RECENT ISSUES

BTR Warrants 1995/96	51	−3
Baillie Gifford Japan Wts	111	−3
Bristol Water Non-Voting £1	425	+20
British Telecom New (335)	125½	...
Burn Stewart Dist 10p (140)	144	+2
Bute Mining Warrants	2	...
Capital Industries 1p	63	−7
Eurotunnel SA 1991 Wts	268	+3
Fidelity European Values (100)	91	...
Fidelity European Values Wts	21	...
Fleming Japanese Warrants	24	...
Frost Group (235)	296	+1
Hanson New Warrants	19½	...
Harrington Kilbride (120)	127	...
Hong Kong Zero Div Pf	24¼	+½
Latin Amer Inc & Ap (£10¼)	£10⅝	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Anglo Irish Bank N/P (43)	3	−2
Cluff Resources N/P (34)	½	...
Hartstone N/P (235)	11	−1
Northern Foods N/P (415p)	107	...
River & Merc Cap. N/P (77½)	¼	...
River & Merc Inc. N/P (105½)	¼	...
River & Merc Spd Pf N/P (113¼)	4	...
River & Merc Warrants N/P (17½)	¼	−½
Tottenham Hotspur N/P (125)	¼	...
Unichem 10p N/P (148)	20	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Liberty Life	650p (+30p)
Allied-Lyons	657p (+25p)
Thomson Corp	745p (+10p)
Airsprung	272p (+13p)
Unidare	275p (+25p)
FALLS:	
General Accident	444p (−14p)
Commercial Union	464p (−14p)
T&N	102p (−10p)
BET	188p (−11p)
Royal	233p (−16p)
Sun Alliance	275p (−10p)
AB Food	447p (−16p)
Reed Int	523p (−10p)
News Corp	595p (−13p)
Courtaulds	499p (−20p)
Cater Allen	328p (−10p)
Amec	149p (−14p)
RMC Group	527p (−14p)
G Oliver	68p (−17p)
Graseby	192p (−10p)

Closing Prices..Page 24

WALL STREET

Blue chips turn tail

New York — Blue chips sank in morning trading after a short-lived advance as program selling and buying resulted in choppy dealings, analysts said.

The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 2.53 to 3,207 after rising as high as 3,217.

☐ **Tokyo** — Shares closed sharply lower. The Nikkei index slumped 731.74 points, or 3.17 per cent, to 22,381.90. *(Reuter)*

	Jan 10 midday	Jan 9 close
AMP Inc	60⅝	60⅞
AMR Corp	69⅝	71⅜
Abbott Labs	64¼	65½
Aetna Life	43½	44
Ahmanson (HF)	16⅝	16¼
Air Prod & Chem	79½	80⅛
Albertson's	37⅜	37
Alcan Alumin	20⅝	20⅛
Alco Standard	33⅛	33⅛
Allied Signal	45⅜	45⅛
Alum Co of Am	62¼	63
Amax	17⅞	17⅞
Amerada Hess	44⅜	45¼
Amer Brands	44⅜	44½
Amer Cyanamid	64⅜	65⅝
Amer El Power	33⅛	33⅜
Amer Express	21⅛	22¼
Amer Genl Corp	43⅞	44¼
Amer Home Pr	83⅜	83⅜
Amer Intl	94½	96⅛
Amer Stores	32⅛	32⅞
Amer T & T	40½	41
Ameritech	64¼	64⅜
Amoco	46½	46⅞
Anheuser-Busch	59⅞	60⅝
Apple Computer	61	62¼
Archer Daniels	31⅜	31¼
Arkla	10⅝	11
Armco	4½	4⅜
Armstrng Wrld	28	28½
Asarco	20⅝	20⅞
Ashland Oil	30⅞	30⅞
Atl Richfield	101⅜	102⅞
Auto Data Pro	44⅜	44⅜
Avery Dennison	24⅞	24⅜
Avon Products	45⅛	46⅜
Baker Hughes	18⅛	19¼
Baltim Gas & El	33⅜	33⅛
Banc One	48½	48⅞
BankAmerica	38½	39⅝
Bank of NY	32⅞	32¼
Bankers Tr NY	64⅝	64¼
Barnett Bks Fl	32⅞	32⅜
Bausch & Lomb	58	57⅞
Baxter Intl	39⅝	39⅝
Bectn Dickinsn	67⅞	67¾
Bell Atlantic	47	47⅜
BellSouth	51	51⅜
Black & Decker	18⅝	19¼
Block (H&R)	40	40¼
Boeing	49⅞	49⅝
Boise Cascade	21⅜	21½
Borden Inc	32½	32⅝
Bristol Myrs Sq	86⅞	88⅞
Browning Ferris	23¼	23⅝
Burlingtn Nthn	41⅞	42⅜
CBS	145⅛	143⅜
CNA Financial	101	102½
CPC Intl	86⅛	86⅜
CSX	57⅞	57⅞
Campbell Soup	39⅜	40⅝
Can Pacific	15¼	15⅜
Cptl Cities ABC	448⅞	460⅛
Cptl Holdings	58⅜	58⅜
Carolina Pwr	51⅛	51⅛
Caterpillar	43⅜	43⅞
Central & SW	52⅜	52⅞
Champion Intl	25	25
Chase Manhat	20	19⅞
Chemical Bk	26⅛	27½
Chevron Corp	65¾	65⅞
Chrysler	12⅞	13
Chubb Corp	72	72⅞
Cigna Corp	59⅞	58⅞
Citicorp	10½	10½
Clorox	41⅜	41⅜
Coastal Corp	24	23¾
Coca Cola	78¼	79⅞
Colgate Palm	49⅜	50⅛
Columbia Gas	16⅝	17⅜
Commonw Ed	38⅛	38⅜
Compaq Comp	31⅛	32⅜
Comp Ass Intl	12	12⅜
Conagra	35	35½
Cons Edison	27⅞	28
Cons Nat Gas	38⅞	39⅝
Cons Rail	81⅜	82⅜
Cooper Inds	54⅜	55¼
Corning Inc	78½	78⅞
Crown Cork	88⅛	88⅜
Dana Corp	31	30¼
Dayton Hudson	59½	60⅛
Deere	47⅜	46⅜
Delta Air Lines	68⅜	69½
Deluxe Corp	38½	38⅞
Detroit Edison	33⅞	34⅜
Digital Equip	55⅛	56½
Dillard Dept St	116¼	116⅞
Disney (Walt)	126⅛	128⅜
Dominion Res	56⅜	56
Donnelley (RR)	49⅝	50⅜
Dover Corp	41⅜	41⅜
Dow Chemicals	53⅝	54
Dow Jones	25½	25⅝
Dresser	18	18⅝
Duke Power	33¼	33⅜
Dun & Brdstreet	53	53⅜
Du Pont	45⅜	46⅜
Eastman Kodak	48⅛	48⅝
Eaton Corp	65	66

	Jan 10 midday	Jan 9 close
Emerson Elec	55⅜	55⅝
Engelhard Corp	31½	31⅛
Enron Corp	34½	34⅜
Ensearch Corp	28⅜	29⅝
Ethyl Corp	25⅞	25⅛
Exxon	58⅛	58⅜
FMC Corp	49½	49⅝
FPL Group	35⅞	35⅞
Federal Express	40⅛	40⅛
Fed Nat Mtge	67⅝	69
First Chicago	24½	25
First Interstate	29⅞	30⅞
First Union Rlty	7⅜	7½
FleetNorstar	25⅛	25⅛
Fluor Corp	43⅞	44⅞
Ford Motor	29⅝	30½
GTE Corp	33⅞	34¼
Gannett	43⅛	43⅜
Gap Inc Del	55⅛	56½
Gen Cinema	19⅝	18⅞
Gen Dynamics	56⅜	56⅜
Gen Electric	74¼	74⅜
Gen Mills	69⅜	71⅛
Gen Motors	30⅞	32⅛
Gen Reinsurance	99⅛	100⅝
Gen Signal	52⅞	53⅝
Genuine Parts	45⅜	46⅛
Georgia Pac	56⅜	57⅛
Gillette	53⅛	53⅜
Goodrich (BF)	40⅝	40½
Goodyear Tire	55	54⅛
Grace (W&R)	39⅝	40⅛
Grt Atl Pac Tea	25⅛	25⅜
Great Wstn Fin	17⅜	17⅜
Halliburton	26¼	26⅝
Heinz (HJ)	39⅝	41
Hercules	46⅞	46⅞
Hershey Foods	43⅝	44¼
Hewlett Packard	58⅜	60
Hilton Hotels	41⅜	42
Home Depot	67⅜	67½
Homestake	15⅜	15⅞
Honeywell	70⅛	70⅞
Household Intl	51⅜	52⅞
Houston Inds	42½	42⅛
Humana	26⅛	26⅜
ITT Corp	56⅜	57
Illinois Tool	66½	67
INCO	31⅜	31¼
Ingersoll Rand	54	55½
Inland Steel	21⅜	21¼
Intel Corp	52⅛	53½
IBM	91⅜	91¼
Intl Flav & Fr	102⅝	102⅝
Intl Paper	69½	70⅝
James River Va	20⅛	21⅜
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	114⅛	116⅞
K Mart	45	45⅜
Kellogg	61⅜	61⅜
Kerr-McGee	35⅜	36
Kimberly-Clark	49⅞	50
Knight-Ridder	53½	53
Lilly (Eli)	86½	87
Limited Inc	28⅛	28½
Lin Brdcstng	75½	78
Lincoln Nat	58	57⅞
Litton	89½	89⅞
Liz Claiborne	45⅜	47
Lockheed Corp	43⅛	42¼
Louisiana Pac	49⅝	49½
MCI Commun	33⅞	35
Marriott	17⅜	18⅜
Marsh & McLen	79½	80⅜
Martin Marietta	54⅛	53⅜
Masco Corp	23⅞	23¼
May Dept St	54	54⅛
Maytag Corp	15⅞	15⅞
McCaw Cellular	33⅞	34⅛
McDonalds	42⅜	42⅞
McDonnell D	74⅜	74⅜
McGraw Hill	60⅝	60½
Mead Corp	35⅜	35⅜
Medtronic	89	89⅞
Mellon Bk	34⅞	35⅜
Melville Corp	43⅞	43⅜
Merck Inc	164⅛	166⅜
Merrill Lynch	61⅜	62⅜
Minnesota Mnng	94⅛	94
Mobil Corp	64⅞	64½
Monsanto	70	70½
Morgan (JP)	66⅞	67½
Motorola Inc	70½	71⅛
Natl Medical	16⅝	16
Natl Semi	7½	7⅞
Natl Service Ind	23⅞	23⅞
Navistar Intl	2½	2⅞
NBD Bancorp	30	30½
NY Times A	24	24
Newmont Mng	43⅜	43½
Niag Mohawk	18⅛	18⅝
Nike B	71	71
NL Industries	11⅜	11⅜
Nordstrom	35	35¼
Norfolk Sthrn	57⅞	57⅞
Nthn State Pwr	40⅝	41⅞
Norwest Corp	33¼	34¼
Nynex Corp	80⅜	81⅛
Occidental Pet	18⅛	18⅛
Ohio Edison	20	20⅛
Oracle Systems	17⅜	18

	Jan 10 midday	Jan 9 close
Oryx Energy Co	22½	23½
PNC Financial	47⅜	48⅛
PPG Industries	53½	53⅜
Paccar Inc	49⅞	50⅛
Pacificorp	24⅜	24½
Pac Enterprises	26⅛	26⅞
Pac Gas & Elec	30½	30⅝
Pac Telesis	42⅞	43⅜
Pall Corp	29⅞	30
Panhandle East	14½	14⅛
Paramnt Comm	40	40½
Parker Hannifin	30⅝	30⅝
Penney (JC)	52⅞	52⅛
Pennzoil	52⅛	52⅜
Pepsico	34	35½
Pfizer	83½	85⅛
Phelps Dodge	65⅜	65⅞
Philadel Elec	24⅛	24⅜
Philip Morris	79⅝	80⅛
Phillips Pet	22½	22⅞
Pitney Bowes	65⅜	67
Polaroid	25⅜	26⅛
Price Co	49	50
Primerica	38½	39⅛
Procter & Gmbl	93⅛	92½
Pub Serv E & G	28⅞	28⅜
Quaker Oats	70⅞	71⅜
Ralston Purina	56⅜	56⅜
Raychem Corp	36	36⅜
Raytheon	92⅛	83⅛
Reebok Intl	32½	31⅞
Reynolds Metals	51	50⅞
Roadway Srvs	60⅞	62⅛
Rockwell Intl	27⅛	27⅜
Rohm & Haas	44⅛	43⅛
Royal Dutch	80⅛	82⅜
Rubbermaid	34⅜	34⅜
Safeco Corp	45⅜	46⅛
St Paul's Cos	72	72⅛
Salomon Inc	32⅛	32⅛
Santa Fe S Pac	13	12⅞
Sara Lee Corp	53⅜	54⅛
Scecorp	45⅛	46
Schering Plough	67	67⅞
Schlumberger	59⅞	59⅝
Scott Paper	34⅛	34⅜
Seagram	117½	116⅜
Sears Roebuck	38⅜	37½
Sec Pacific	32	32½
Shell Trans	51⅛	52⅞
Sherwin Wlms	27⅛	27½
Skyline Corp	16⅝	16½
Snap-On-Tools	33⅜	33⅜
Southern Co	32½	32½
Sthwestern Bell	63½	64
Stanley Works	42⅞	43⅛
Sun Company	30⅛	30⅜
Suntrust	38⅛	38½
Super Valu	26⅛	26⅜
Syntex Corp	52⅜	52⅛
Sysco Corp	44⅛	46
TRW Inc	43	43⅜
Tandem Comp	12⅜	12⅛
Tandy Corp	27⅛	27⅜
Telecom Corp	⅛	⅛
Teledyne	23⅜	23½
Temple Inland	51⅜	52
Tenneco	32⅞	33⅛
Texaco	57½	57⅛
Texas Inst	32⅞	32⅛
Texas Utilities	40⅝	40⅜
Textron	37⅜	38
Time Warner	93⅝	94⅜
Times-Mirror	30⅝	29⅝
Timken	24⅜	24⅜
Torchmark	59⅛	58⅜
Toys R Us	34⅜	34½
Transamerica	37⅞	37⅜
Travelers Corp	22⅛	22⅜
Tribune	44	44
Tyco Labs	38⅞	38⅛
UAL Corp	147⅛	150½
UST Inc	63	63⅜
USX Marathon	21⅜	22⅛
Unilever NV	100	102⅜
Union Camp	49⅞	51⅜
Union Carbide	23⅜	23⅞
Union Pacific	46½	46⅜
Unisys Corp	4⅛	4⅛
USAIR Group	13⅜	13⅛
USF&G Corp	8⅛	8⅜
US Life	40⅜	40½
US West	38⅝	38½
United Tech	52⅞	52⅜
Utd Telecomms	25⅜	26⅛
Unocal Corp	21⅛	21⅛
Upjohn	43⅛	44⅛
VF Corp	42	42½
Wal-Mart Stores	56⅜	57
Warner-Lambert	77⅜	78⅛
Waste Mngmnt	43½	44
Wells Fargo	60⅝	62⅜
Westinghouse El	18½	18⅛
Weyerhaeuser	28⅛	28⅜
Whirlpool	37⅞	38⅜
Whitman	14½	14⅛
Winn Dixie	37⅜	38
Woolworth	30⅝	31⅜
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	77¼	77½
Xerox	67⅞	67⅛

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS. 071 538 8800				
Series Mngd Fd	305.50	323.30	+ 2.40	...
Series Equity	386.30	408.80	+ 2.10	...
Series Prop Fd	386.30	408.80	− 0.10	...
Series Fixed Int	252.40	267.10	+ 4.10	...
Series Money Fd	221.00	233.90	+ 0.50	...
Series Overs Fd	217.30	230.00	+ 0.30	...
AETNA LIFE INSURANCE 2-12 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD. 0800 010575				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	15.79	16.63	+ 0.03	...
Bear	15.36	16.17	+ 0.07	...
Owl	14.89	15.68	+ 0.02	...
Bull	13.78	14.51	+ 0.17	...
Stag	14.32	15.08	+ 0.23	...
Gilt Edged	15.30	...	+ 0.12	...
Deposit	14.03	...	+ 0.02	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	20.33	21.41	+ 0.04	...
Bear	19.59	20.63	+ 0.09	...
Owl	19.03	20.04	+ 0.01	...
Bull	16.75	17.64	+ 0.24	...
Stag	16.77	17.66	+ 0.29	...
Gilt Edged	18.04	...	+ 0.16	...
Deposit	17.18	...	+ 0.03	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	423.45	423.46	+ 1.77	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	250.94	264.15	+ 1.34	...
N Amer Equity	233.59	245.89	+ 8.48	...
Far East Equity	294.48	309.98	+ 5.89	...
Fixed	236.04	248.47	+ 2.08	...
Cash Deposit	179.11	188.54	+ 0.24	...
Property	86.35	90.90	− 1.28	...
Special Opp	269.26	283.44	− 3.42	...
Managed	221.72	233.39	+ 2.15	...
Index-Linked Fd	157.81	166.12	+ 1.79	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL. 0202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	264.10	278.10	...	...
-do- Acc	449.40	473.10		
Equity Fd Inc	129.90	136.80	− 0.90	...
-do- Acc	159.40	167.80	− 1.20	...
Selective Fd	367.10	386.50	+ 1.30	...
Money Fd	325.30	342.50	+ 0.50	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	355.40	374.20		
Equity Ser 4	160.80	169.30	− 1.20	...
Man Ser 4	478.10	503.30	+ 1.00	...
Conv Ser 4	287.20	302.40	+ 0.40	...
Money Ser 4	286.90	302.10	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	278.10	292.80	+ 1.70	...
American Ser 4	364.20	383.40	+10.50	...
High Inc Ser 4	474.60	499.60	− 1.90	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	161.50	170.10	+ 2.60	...
Japan Ser 4	277.00	291.60	− 3.00	...
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ. 0707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1188.2	1250.7	+11.00	...
European Fd Acc	257.50	271.00	+10.70	...
Fixed Int Acc	414.70	436.50	+ 2.70	...
Gtd Money Acc	294.50	310.00	+ 0.80	...
Intl Managed Acc	414.50	436.30	+ 4.50	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	256.20	269.60	+ 4.20	...
Japan Fund	240.10	252.70	+ 1.40	...
N American Acc	234.50	246.80	+ 7.90	...
Prop Fd Acc	345.00	363.10	+ 0.30	...
Multiple Inv Acc	782.00	823.10	+ 8.10	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL. 0793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	327.70	345.00	+ 0.20	...
Equity Acc	1016.2	1069.7	+ 6.00	...
Property Acc	489.20	515.00	+ 0.60	...
Far East Acc	195.90	206.30	+ 1.90	...
Managed Capital	416.60	438.60	+ 2.30	...
-do- Acc	797.40	839.40	+ 4.60	...
Overseas Acc	706.70	743.90	+ 4.50	...
Gilt Edged Acc	376.50	396.40	+ 2.10	...
Amer Equity Acc	559.90	589.40	+14.90	...
Amer Man Acc	247.70	260.80	+ 6.60	...
Amer Prop Acc	119.70	126.00	+ 2.10	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 081 534 5544				
Equity Acc	611.80	644.10	...	...
-do- Initial	447.70	471.30	...	...
Gilt Edged Acc	296.00	311.60	...	...
-do- Initial	218.50	230.10	...	...
International Acc	274.70	289.20		
-do- Initial	201.40	212.10		
Managed Acc	387.00	407.40		
-do- Initial	284.30	299.30	...	
Money Acc	256.00	269.50		
Property Acc	280.40	295.20		
-do- Initial	204.30	215.10	...	
America Acc	190.00	200.10		
Australia Acc	147.80	155.60		
Financial Acc	202.30	213.00		
500 Accum	307.90	324.20		
Japan Genl Acc	275.70	290.30		
Income Acc	354.30	373.00		
Leisure Acc	176.70	186.10		
Special Sits Acc	146.30	154.10		
Univ Tech Acc	99.20	104.50		...
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF. 0634 834000				
The Managed Fd	591.35	591.35	+ 3.69	
Income Fund	546.47	575.24	− 3.69	...
Extra Income	494.29	520.31	+ 2.84	...
Worldwide Gth	355.77	374.50	+ 4.23	
Balanced Fund	494.39	510.42	− 5.95	...
Smllr Cos Recov	503.21	529.72	+ 3.99	...
Intl Technology	334.36	351.96	+ 7.67	
N Amer & Genrl	300.68	316.51	+ 6.91	
Energy Intl Fd	105.90	111.49	− 4.18	...
Pacific Basin	263.00	276.85	+ 4.79	
German Growth	163.23	171.83	+ 0.44	
Japan Growth	132.92	139.92	+ 1.34	
The UK Gth Fd	168.78	177.67	+ 2.56	
Contl Euro Gth	81.68	85.96	+ 0.96	...
Property Fund	335.02	352.66	− 0.20	
Fixed Interest	252.09	265.36	+ 3.21	
Cash Fund	249.94	263.10	+ 0.35	
Managed Inv	367.81	387.17	+ 2.50	
Nth Amer Recov	189.60	199.58	+ 7.91	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Gth	301.67	317.55	+ 1.95	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire. 0475 868000				
Measured Perf	110.50	116.90	+ 3.50	...
Performance Plus	104.90	111.00	+ 3.30	...
With Profit Perf	140.80	149.00	+ 0.40	...
UK Opportunity	128.00	135.50	+ 4.80	...
Euro Opportunity	131.10	138.70	+ 3.90	...
North Amer Opp	95.90	101.50	+ 4.80	...
Far East Opp	112.40	118.90	+ 2.80	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	164.00	173.00	− 1.40	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	151.40	160.20	− 2.50	...
Fixed Int	140.20	148.40	+ 1.70	...
Cash	138.70	146.80	+ 0.20	...
Managed Pens	449.60	458.80	...	...
Overseas	118.60	125.50	+ 3.10	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA. 0707 51122				
Equity Growth	1201.70	...	...	...
Managed	238.60	251.20	+ 1.40	...
Property	181.20	190.80	+ 0.10	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	187.70	197.60	+ 1.90	...
Index-Linked	149.40	157.30	+ 1.40	...
Equity	260.10	273.80	+ 0.10	...
Cash	192.30	202.50	+ 0.20	...
CLife Euro Mgd	244.50	257.50	+ 6.40	...
CLife Intl Fd	254.20	267.60	+ 5.50	...
CANNON ASSURANCE 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB. 081 902 8876				
Capital Gth Acc	90.80	96.10	− 1.90	...
Equity Units	£94.46	...	+ 0.52	...
Property Units	£26.37	...	− 0.01	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	£49.86	£52.76	+ 0.74	...
2nd Equity Acc	481.30	509.30	+ 2.20	...
Acc/Acc	444.70	470.60	− 0.10	...
2nd Property Acc	241.60	255.70	− 0.20	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	144.40	152.80	+ 1.30	...
2nd Managd Acc	349.80	370.20	+ 5.00	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	166.20	175.90	+ 2.90	...
2nd Deposit Acc	248.50	263.00	+ 0.20	...
2nd Gilt Acc	237.60	251.40	+ 1.30	...
2nd Amer Acc	507.30	536.80	+26.40	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	207.90	220.00	+ 1.50	...
2nd Index Acc	151.60	160.40	+ 0.20	...
2nd Far East Acc	298.50	315.90	− 0.50	...
2nd Global Acc	128.50	136.00	+ 4.30	...
2nd Euro Acc	109.10	115.40	+ 3.20	...
2nd Japan Acc	162.70	172.20	− 2.00	...
2nd Heritage Acc	72.30	76.50	− 0.10	...
2nd Intl Curr Bd	120.60	127.60	+ 1.30	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU 0908 606101				
Property Fund	201.10	211.70		...
Managed Fund	443.70	467.10	+ 1.80	...
Equity Fund	255.70	269.20	+ 0.90	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0272 290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	210.00	221.10	+ 0.20	...
Ruby	111.50	117.40	+ 1.50	...
Emerald	117.80	124.10	+ 0.60	...
Equity	245.80	258.80	− 3.40	...
Property	183.10	192.80	...	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	166.00	174.80	+ 1.30	...
Indexed Secs	133.00	140.10	+ 1.40	...
Cash	164.60	173.30	+ 0.20	...
Nth American	169.80	178.80	+ 5.90	...
Far East	186.00	195.80	+ 1.60	...
International	163.50	172.20	+ 2.70	...
Special Sits	192.20	202.40	− 3.20	...
Intl Income	204.90	215.70	− 0.60	...
American Inc	136.20	143.40	+ 4.40	...
European	221.80	233.50	+ 4.60	...
Japanese	107.70	113.40	− 0.10	...
SE Asia	183.50	193.20	+ 3.70	...
Home Inv WP R	131.10	138.00	+ 0.30	...
-do- Spec	131.10	138.00	+ 0.30	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	217.60	229.10	+ 1.90	...
Equity	261.20	275.00	− 1.10	...
Property	162.30	170.90	+ 1.40	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	185.90	195.70	+ 1.20	...
Index Linked	144.50	152.20	− 2.00	...
Cash	209.90	219.80	+ 0.40	...
Nth American	198.60	209.30	+ 7.90	...
Far East Acc	203.70	214.50	+ 1.60	...
International Acc	200.00	210.60	+ 4.50	...
Special Sits	281.30	296.20	− 3.00	...
European Fx	278.00	292.70	+ 7.20	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL 24 Ludgate Hill, London EC4P 4BD 071 248 9861				
(Unit) Key	†171.84		...	
-do- Pacemaker	†233.11	...		
-do- Cash	182.14	191.73	+ 0.21	...
-do- Equity	382.73	402.87	− 0.49	...
-do- Fxd Int	270.67	284.92	+ 2.61	...
-do- Managed	282.30	297.16	+ 0.68	...
-do- Property	241.12	253.81	− 2.46	...
(Pens) Cash Cap	193.76	203.97	+ 0.61	...
-do- Cash Inv	256.21	269.71	+ 1.25	...
-do- Equity Cap	1080.4	1137.3	+51.39	...
-do- Equity Inv	1428.6	1503.8	+70.28	...
-do- Fixed Cap	306.79	322.95	+ 4.18	...
-do- Fixed Inv	405.67	427.03	+ 6.21	...
-do- Index Cap	174.07	183.25	+ 3.37	...
-do- Index Inv	230.18	242.30	+ 4.84	...
Mngd Cap	441.55	464.80	+17.14	...
Mngd Inv	583.50	614.00	+24.43	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 071 283 7500				
Var Ann (5)	£467.00	...	+ 8.93	...
Var Ann Acc (5)	£73.52		− 0.55	...
Prime Managed	277.80	292.50	+ 2.20	...
Prime UK Equity	330.90	348.40	+ 0.30	...
Prime Intl Equity	199.20	209.70	+ 4.40	...
Prime Property	177.20	186.60	+ 0.20	...
Prime Fxd Int	188.60	198.60	+ 2.40	...
Prime Index-Lnk	137.10	144.40	+ 1.80	...
Prime Cash	180.80	190.40	+ 0.10	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN. 0438 744840				
Managed Fund	838.20	882.30	...	...
Equity Fund	1170.0	1231.5	...	...
CROWN FINANCIAL Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW. 0483 715033				
Life Mangd Acc	434.90	457.70	+ 1.30	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	300.40	316.20	+ 2.60	...
Life Equity Acc	578.00	608.40	− 3.60	...
Life Money Acc	265.30	279.20	+ 0.20	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	536.40	564.60	− 3.30	...
Life Intl Acc	372.60	392.20	+10.00	...
Life High Inc Acc	537.70	565.90	− 0.20	...
Life Property Acc	226.20	238.10	+ 0.40	...
Crown Bdt Inv A	944.30	1051.0	...	...
Brewin Equity	543.50	572.10	− 2.60	...
DBS Managed	237.20	249.60	− 0.30	...
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 0242 221311				
Secure Fund	154.00	162.20	+ 0.20	...
Blue Chip Fund	185.70	195.50	+ 1.80	...
-do- Series 2	117.60	123.80	+ 1.20	...
Adventurous Fd	160.40	168.90	+ 1.50	...
-do- Series 2	118.30	124.60	+ 1.10	...
Performance Fd	180.40	189.90	+ 2.60	...
-do- Series 2	114.70	120.80	+ 1.70	...
UK Pref Fxd Int	116.80	123.00	+ 1.00	...
UK Equity Fund	113.60	119.60	+ 1.00	...
Property Fund	101.50	106.90	+ 0.30	...
Environmnt Opps	114.70	120.80	+ 1.40	...
Euro Fund	106.00	111.60	+ 3.10	...
North Amer Fd	136.00	143.20	+ 4.00	...
Oriental Ops	113.40	119.40	+ 3.40	...
Japanese Fund	100.20	105.50	− 1.30	...
Bd & West Life	105.40	111.00	+ 0.20	...
Bd & West Pen	110.50	116.40	+ 0.20	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 071 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	215.90	223.70	+ 1.90	4.20
EQUITY & LAW Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks. 0494 463463				
Reserve	121.60	127.90	+ 0.40	...
Balanced (Mxd)	526.70	554.40	+ 2.60	...
Opportunity	110.80	116.60	+ 2.50	...
UK Equities	712.80	750.30	− 5.10	...
Higher Inc	686.90	723.00	− 8.10	...
North Amer	357.70	376.50	+26.60	...
Far East	363.60	382.70	+ 0.50	...
Europe	272.70	287.00	+ 6.20	...
Intnl	410.40	432.00	+13.60	...
Property	464.10	488.50		...
Fixed Int	326.40	343.50	+ 1.80	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec	144.90	152.40	+ 1.90	...
Guaranteed Dep	259.10	272.70	+ 0.40	...
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH. 0722 413366				
Managed (Mixd)	219.20	230.80	+ 1.30	...
UK Equity	299.70	305.00	− 0.50	...
Stewardship	244.80	257.70	− 1.50	...
Overseas Equity	190.20	200.30	+ 5.00	...
North American	109.10	114.90	+ 3.50	...
Pacific Basin	95.20	100.30	+ 0.80	...
European	140.20	147.60	+ 5.30	...
Property	192.60	202.80	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	169.10	178.00	+ 1.60	...
Index Linked	129.20	136.10	+ 2.20	...
Cash	174.30	183.50	+ 0.20	...
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD 8th Floor, 8 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4YJ. 071 283 2575				
GT Plan Far East	239.60	252.30	+ 3.50	...
GT Plan Wwide	292.10	307.50	+ 4.60	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier Street, York YO1 1HR. 0904 628982				
Managed	150.30	158.10	− 0.20	...
Unitised Profit	107.60	113.20	+ 0.20	...
UK Equity	203.30	213.90	− 1.40	...
Fixed Int	158.10	166.40	− 0.80	...
Index-Linked	132.40	139.30	+ 1.70	...
Cash Deposit	155.00	163.10	+ 0.30	...
Property	158.50	166.70	+ 0.10	...
International	137.10	144.20	− 0.80	...
American	119.80	126.00	+ 3.30	...
Japan	193.80	203.90	− 3.90	...
Japan Smllr Cos	199.10	209.50	+ 3.20	...
European	140.40	147.70	+10.40	...
Pacific Fund	139.30	146.50	+ 3.10	...
Conv Life	113.00	118.90	+ 0.20	...
GENERAL PORTFOLIO LIFE Gen Portfolio House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 0279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	550.30	550.30	+ 7.80	...
-do- Inv A	550.20	579.20	+ 8.10	...
UK Equity	319.30	336.20	+ 4.30	...
Gilt Plus	165.60	174.50	− 1.40	...
Managed	236.80	249.40	+ 3.80	...
Inter Man	209.40	220.50	+ 3.90	...
GRESHAM UNIT 2-6 Prince of Wales Road, Bournemouth 0202 752000				
Managed Bond	543.30	572.50	− 3.10	...
Money Fund	279.30	294.00	+ 0.30	...
Equity Fund	462.80	487.70	+ 2.50	...
Fixed Interest	220.90	232.80	+ 3.40	...
Property Fund	317.00	334.00		...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnl	427.70	450.50	+30.50	...
Income	529.20	557.60	+ 0.90	...
International Gth	484.90	511.00	+24.70	...
Capital Fund	499.00	524.80	+ 7.50	...
Recovery Fund	398.90	420.30	+14.10	...
Japan & General	214.40	225.90	+ 2.20	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 071 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	656.60	694.00	...	...
Managed Initial	345.40	363.60	− 0.20	...
-do- Acc	461.50	485.80	...	...
Equity Initial	519.10	546.40	+ 3.50	...
-do- Acc	693.50	730.00	+ 5.10	...
Fixed Int Initial	344.60	362.70	+ 5.50	...
-do- Acc	460.30	484.60	+ 7.70	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Ind Initial	332.30	349.90	− 0.70	...
-do- Acc	444.00	467.40	− 0.80	...
Nth Amer Initial	134.80	141.90	+ 4.70	...
-do- Acc	163.90	172.50	+ 5.80	...
Pacific Initial	179.40	188.90	− 4.90	...
-do- Acc	216.10	227.50	− 5.80	...
Property Initial	158.40	166.70	...	...
-do- Acc	211.50	222.60	...	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	134.10	141.10	+ 2.70	...
-do- Acc	163.00	171.60	+ 3.40	...
Deposit Initial	183.40	193.10	+ 0.20	...
-do- Acc	245.00	257.90	+ 0.40	...
Euro Initial	78.00	82.10	+ 2.80	...
-do- Acc	87.60	92.20	+ 3.20	...
HAMBRO GUARDIAN ASSURANCE Kingsgate, 1 King Edward Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4HG. 0277 200939				
Managed	121.90	128.30	+ 0.40	...
-do- Pens	136.50	143.60	+ 0.60	...
UK Equity	111.20	117.00	− 0.70	...
-do- Pens	116.80	122.90	− 0.70	...
International	101.60	106.90	+ 0.90	...
-do- Pens	103.50	108.90	+ 1.10	...
Deposit	124.50	131.00	+ 0.10	...
-do- Pens	140.70	148.10	+ 0.20	...
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA. 071 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	292.00	308.20	− 0.20	4.50
North America	278.80	294.30	+ 8.70	...
Far East Fund	355.20	374.90	+ 5.40	...
Global Managed	314.90	332.40	+ 3.00	...
Deposit Fund	199.90	210.50	− 0.30	...
Prime Residential	135.20	142.40	...	...
European Fund	180.30	190.30	+ 5.10	...
Fixed Interest	67.80	71.60	+ 0.40	10.50
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon. 081 686 4355				
Security Fund	360.20	381.20	− 3.20	...
British Fund	386.10	408.60	− 3.50	...
International	373.10	394.90	+ 4.70	...
Dollar Fund	266.30	281.80	+ 6.00	...
Capital Fund	343.00	363.00	− 0.80	...
Income Fund	470.80	498.30	− 8.40	...
Property Series A	383.60	406.00	...	...
Property Units	617.30	648.20	...	...
Financial Fund	341.50	361.40	− 2.70	...
Managed Ser A	400.90	424.30	...	...
-do- C	241.30	255.40	− 0.10	...
Managed Units	712.10	749.60	...	...
High Yield Fund	439.50	465.10	− 6.40	...
Money Series A	250.90	265.60	+ 0.40	...
Money Units	328.40	345.70	+ 0.30	...
Equity Fund	445.50	471.50	− 1.00	...
Fixed Interest	286.20	302.90	+ 1.80	...
Indexed Secs	143.40	151.80	+ 3.20	...
European Fund	525.10	555.70	+ 9.70	...
Natural Res	196.20	207.70	...	...
Far East Fund	417.30	441.60	+ 0.60	...
Smaller Cos	319.80	338.50	+ 2.50	...
Special Sits	335.10	354.70	+ 1.40	...
Man Currency	219.30	232.10	− 2.00	...
Japanese Tech	200.10	211.80	− 0.10	...
US Smaller Cos	168.40	178.30	+11.30	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 0727 48181				
Global Managed	416.90	438.80	+ 2.70	...
Global Property	247.10	260.10	...	...
Global Fixed Int	406.70	428.10	+ 4.00	...
Global Equity	467.30	491.90	+ 1.70	...
Global Cash	187.50	197.40	+ 0.30	...
LAURENTIAN LIFE Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ. 0452 371371				
Gtd Mgd	406.90	428.30	+ 2.80	...
Property	479.30	504.50	+ 0.70	...
Managed	307.40	323.60	+ 1.40	...
American	281.10	295.90	+11.30	...
UK Equity Fd	327.50	344.70	− 0.40	...
Japan	153.30	161.40	− 1.90	...
Index-Lkd	150.40	158.30	+ 2.30	...
High Yield	577.60	608.00	− 1.10	...
Growth Cap	348.20	366.50	+ 3.10	...
Money	353.30	371.90	+ 0.30	...
International	277.30	291.90	+ 5.50	...
Henderson Active	152.70	160.70	+ 1.50	...
Perpetual Active	204.20	215.00	+ 5.00	...
Growth Cap	348.20	366.50	+ 3.10	...
-do- Acc	472.10	496.90	+ 2.40	...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE. 0273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Int	130.70	137.60	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc	164.30	173.00	+ 0.30	...
Brit Opps Int	105.90	111.40	− 0.40	...
-do- Acc	120.30	126.70	− 0.40	...
Cash Initial	159.90	168.40	+ 0.20	...
-do- Acc	252.20	265.50	+ 0.40	...
Equity Initial	510.50	537.40	− 2.40	...
-do- Acc	805.10	847.50	− 3.70	...
Fixed Initial	294.50	310.00	+ 1.80	...
-do- Acc	464.40	488.90	+ 3.10	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	113.40	119.40	+ 1.70	...
-do- Acc	152.60	160.70	+ 2.30	...
Intl Initial	257.20	270.80	+ 3.80	...
-do- Acc	399.30	420.40	+ 5.80	...
Managed Initial	372.20	391.80	+ 0.70	...
-do- Acc	586.90	617.80	+ 1.00	...
Property Initial	190.80	200.90	+ 0.20	...
-do- Acc	301.00	316.90	+ 0.40	...
LIFE ASSOCIATION OF SCOTLAND 113 Dundas Street, Edinburgh EH3 5EB. 031 550 5000				
Managed Fund	256.40	269.90	+ 1.60	...
UK Equity	422.80	445.10	+ 0.40	...
Property	286.30	301.40	+ 0.20	...
Money Market	222.60	234.40	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Interest	262.50	276.40	+ 2.00	...
Japan	283.30	298.30	+ 0.50	...
North America	122.40	128.90	+ 2.20	...
International	207.40	218.40	+ 3.60	...
European	190.30	200.40	+ 4.90	...
Far East	82.30	86.70	+ 1.60	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA. 0272 279179				
Equity	‡689.80	...	− 0.70	...
Fixed Interest	‡313.80	...	+ 5.10	...
Property	‡356.00	...	+ 0.50	...
Deposit	‡255.20	...	+ 0.40	...
Mixed	‡450.10	...	+ 1.50	...
Indexed Stock	‡165.70	...	+ 2.30	...
International	‡205.10	...	+ 2.40	...
Equity A	‡160.80	...	− 0.10	...
Fixed Int A	‡139.90	...	+ 2.30	...
Property A	‡157.20	...	+ 0.20	...
Deposit A	‡150.70	...	+ 0.30	...
Mixed A	‡148.60	...	+ 0.50	...
Index Stock A	‡130.30	...	+ 1.80	...
International A	‡128.70	...	+ 1.50	...
Equity P	‡539.00	...	− 2.50	...
Fixed Int P	‡398.90	...	+ 5.80	...
Property P	‡272.60	...	+ 0.50	...
Deposit P	‡287.00	...	+ 0.40	...
Mixed P	‡391.60	...	+ 0.70	...
Index Stock P	‡189.30	...	+ 2.60	...
International P	‡224.80	...	+ 3.20	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER GROUP Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 0392 282246				
Inv Trust Cap	‡440.60	...	− 0.80	...
-do- Acc	‡649.10	...	− 0.60	...
Property Cap	‡172.30	...	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc	‡247.40	...	+ 0.20	...
Fxd Interest Cap	‡177.60	...	+ 1.50	...
-do- Acc	‡254.20	...	+ 2.30	...
Equity Cap	‡268.30	...	+ 0.80	...
-do- Acc	‡387.60	...	+ 1.50	...
Internatl Cap	‡190.00	...	+ 2.60	...
-do- Acc	‡272.30	...	+ 4.00	...
Gtd Deposit Cap	‡168.60	...	...	...
-do- Acc	‡239.40	...	+ 0.20	...
Flexible Cap	‡296.50	...	+ 1.70	...
-do- Acc	‡427.70	...	+ 2.80	...
Moneymaker Fd	‡344.20	...	+ 1.70	...
Capital Growth	‡1212.7	..	+ 6.40	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB. 0245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	301.10	316.30	+ 9.00	...
Amer Rec Bond	298.80	313.90	+10.30	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	172.30	181.00	+ 9.20	...
Australasia Bd	140.60	147.70	+ 0.30	...
Commodity Bond	182.60	191.80	+ 0.20	...
Deposit Bond Acc	319.10	335.10	+ 0.40	...
Equity Bond Acc	958.90	1007.0	−13.10	...
European Bd Acc	250.10	262.70	+ 7.10	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	463.30	486.60	−14.40	...
Far East Bd Acc	165.80	174.20	+ 1.60	...
Gilt Bond Acc	343.90	361.20	+ 3.40	...
Gold Bond Acc	86.60	91.10	+ 7.40	...
High Yield Bond	251.50	264.20	− 2.40	7.55
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	169.80	178.40	+ 2.50	...
International Bd	511.40	537.10	+ 7.40	...
Japan Bond Acc	218.20	229.20	− 3.70	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	186.70	196.10	− 1.50	...
Managed Bonds	580.30	609.50	+ 0.20	...
Prop Bond Acc	304.20	319.10	− 8.70	...
Rec Bond Acc	472.60	496.40	− 7.80	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 0903 204631				
UK Equity	181.40	191.00	− 0.80	...
UK Equity Acc	231.60	243.80	− 0.90	...
Special Sits	87.90	92.60	− 1.40	...
Special Sits Acc	112.30	118.30	− 1.70	...
North American	149.20	157.10	+ 2.80	...
N American Acc	190.50	200.60	+ 3.80	...
Pacific Basin	269.50	283.70	− 0.60	...
Pacific Basin Acc	344.10	362.30	− 0.50	...
Fixed Interest	245.30	258.30	+ 1.90	...
Fixed Interest Acc	313.50	330.00	+ 2.60	...
Property	156.50	164.80	+ 0.10	...
Property Acc	199.90	210.50	+ 0.20	...
Deposit	141.50	149.00	+ 0.10	...
Deposit Acc	181.50	191.10	+ 0.20	...
Managed	204.90	215.70	+ 0.60	...
Managed Acc	243.20	256.00	+ 0.70	...
MANULIFE GROUP St Georges Way, Stevenage, Herts. 0438 356101				
Managed Fund	519.80	547.20	...	...
Property Fund	452.80	476.60	...	...
Equity Fund	637.50	671.00	...	...
Gilt Edged Fd	472.80	497.70	...	...
Deposit Fund	290.00	305.30	...	...
Investment Fd	270.40	283.90	...	...
International	391.70	412.30	...	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS 01 Wimpole Street, London W1M 7DA. Admin: 0272 266366 Prices: 081 789 2945 or 0272 752247				
Property	467.50	492.10	+ 0.90	...
Equity Bond	250.10	263.20	+ 0.10	...
Money Mrkt Bd	421.90	444.00	+ 3.20	...
Deposit Fund	328.60	345.80	+ 0.40	...
Managed Fund	362.50	381.50	− 0.90	...
Intl Equity	379.30	399.20	+ 4.70	...
Intl Managed	368.00	387.30	+ 4.70	...
North American	152.80	160.80	+ 4.30	...
Far East	274.80	289.20	+ 0.90	...
Intl Currency	217.50	228.90	+ 0.40	...
NM LIFE ASSURANCE Enterprise House, Portsmouth. 0705 827733				
Equity	113.40	119.30	− 1.80	...
Fixed Interest	428.90	451.40	+ 3.70	...
Managed	539.90	568.20	− 3.50	...
Deposit	297.30	312.90	+ 0.40	...
Property	363.80	382.90	+ 0.30	...
American	322.50	339.40	+10.40	...
Australian	342.00	360.00	+ 7.20	...
European	400.40	421.40	+ 8.70	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	221.90	233.50	+ 1.10	...
Global Managed	108.80	114.50	− 0.90	...
Income Acc	568.50	598.40	− 7.00	...
-do- Dist	359.40	378.30	− 5.10	7.20
International	245.20	258.10	+ 5.30	...
Japan Smaller	436.80	459.70	+ 1.70	...
Singapore & Mal	169.80	178.70	+ 2.10	...
Smaller Cos	325.90	343.00	− 1.40	...
Tokyo Fund	532.30	560.30	+ 1.80	...
UK Equity	466.00	490.50	− 1.90	...
CCM Mangd Mg	524.40	552.00	+ 1.90	...
Equity Pens Cap	719.50	757.30	− 6.90	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
NATIONAL PROVIDENT 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH. 071 623 4200				
Managed	350.40	368.90	+ 2.30	...
UK Equity	435.30	458.30	− 1.00	...
Overseas Equity	339.60	357.50	+ 8.30	...
American	297.70	313.40	+ 9.90	...
Far East	346.50	364.80	+ 1.10	...
Property	193.80	204.10	− 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	277.00	291.60	+ 2.90	...
Indexed Gilt	163.00	171.60	+ 2.60	...
Deposit	189.90	199.90	+ 0.40	...
NORWICH UNION ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP. 0603 622200				
Managed Fund	1013.4	1066.8	+ 1.80	...
Eqity Fund	2156.5	2270.0	−12.70	...
Property Fd	492.80	518.80	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int Fd	476.40	501.50	+ 4.00	...
Deposit Fund	300.10	315.90	+ 0.40	...
Intl Fund	165.40	174.20	+ 2.70	...
PEARL ASSURANCE Pearl House, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough PE3 6SA. 0733 63212				
Inv Prop Dist	132.70	139.70	...	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	252.90	266.30	...	...
Inv Equity	836.80	880.90	...	...
Inv Managed	589.00	620.00	...	...
Ret Managed	642.30	676.20	...	...
PROLIFIC LIFE & PENSIONS LTD Stramongate, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4UB. 0539 733733				
Bal Gwth Mngd	576.70	613.60	+ 9.90	...
Cash Fund	295.80	311.70	+ 1.00	...
Property Fund	214.80	228.60	...	...
Equity Fund	671.00	713.90	+21.70	...
Fxd Interest Fund	339.70	358.00	+ 4.60	...
International	313.00	333.00	+ 7.80	...
High Income	475.90	506.30	+ 4.40	...
Far East	366.00	389.40	+ 7.50	...
North American	326.00	346.90	+20.90	...
Special Sits	518.20	551.30	+ 2.80	...
Technology	325.00	345.80	+36.00	...
Extra Income Fd	265.50	282.50	+ 3.20	...
Gilt Fund	379.10	403.40	+ 7.20	...
European	104.70	111.40	+ 3.00	...
Adventurous Mg	132.90	139.90	+ 3.50	...
Secure Mgd	106.70	113.60	+ 1.00	...
Equity Inc Dist	91.30	97.20	+ 1.00	5.55
North American	91.00	96.90	+ 1.10	5.84
PROVIDENCE CAPITOL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA. 0256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	214.50	226.30	− 1.70	...
Fxd Interest Acc	196.80	207.60	+ 2.20	...
International Acc	173.60	183.20	+ 3.80	...
Managed Acc	169.80	179.10	+ 0.60	...
Property Acc	224.70	237.10	+ 2.00	...
Money Acc	134.90	142.40	+ 0.10	...
Spec Mkt Acc	151.20	159.50	+ 6.90	...
Japan Equity Acc	93.80	99.00	− 0.20	...
N Amer Acc	107.30	113.20	+ 6.20	...
Pacific Acc	91.50	96.60	+ 2.10	...
Technology Acc	135.90	143.40	+11.60	...
Natural Res Acc	56.50	59.60	+ 5.50	...
European Acc	99.60	105.10	+ 4.10	...
PROVIDENT MUTUAL William Road, Hitchin, Herts SG4 0LP. 0438 739000				
Managed Ord	351.30	369.80	− 1.00	...
Managed Initial	260.30	274.00	− 0.80	...
Equity Ord	513.10	540.10	− 7.80	...
Equity Init	380.20	400.20	− 5.90	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	160.20	168.60	+ 2.20	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	124.00	130.50	+ 1.70	...
Overs Equity Ord	280.40	295.20	+ 5.00	...
Overs Equity Init	207.80	218.70	+ 3.50	...
Property Ord	215.50	226.80	+ 0.20	...
Property Init	159.70	168.10	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Int Ord	216.70	228.10	+ 1.50	...
Fixed Int Init	160.50	168.90	+ 0.90	...
Deposit Ord	181.00	190.50	+ 0.30	...
Deposit Initial	134.10	141.20	+ 0.10	...
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH. 071 405 9222				
Managed	251.50	262.00	+ 0.70	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FUNDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP. 071 548 3278				
Managed Fund	552.90	582.00	+ 3.10	...
Equity Fund	1135.4	1195.2	+ 4.20	...
Intl Fund	385.30	405.60	+ 8.50	...
Fixed Interest	451.50	475.30	+ 3.70	...
Property Fund	362.20	381.30	+ 0.50	...
Cash Fund	321.10	338.00	+ 0.50	...
Pacific Basin	200.00	210.60	+ 0.90	...
N American Fd	150.40	158.40	+ 7.40	...
Euro Fund	184.90	194.70	+ 5.80	...
Balanced Fund	110.40	116.30	+ 0.50	...
Strategic Fund	111.00	116.90	+ 0.60	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG 0733 390000				
Mult Grow (45)	£537.50	...	+ 4.50	...
-do- Acc	364.70	383.90	+ 1.90	...
Op Prop	375.20	395.00	+ 0.70	...
Op Equity	778.60	819.60	+ 5.60	...
Op High Yield	441.40	464.70	+ 3.60	...
Op Managed	594.40	625.70	+ 7.30	...
Op Deposit	345.50	363.70	+ 0.70	10.37
Amer Smaller	133.60	140.70	+11.20	...
Extra Inc	126.50	133.20	− 1.60	...
Far East	144.30	151.90	+ 3.90	...
Gold Gen	31.40	33.10	+ 1.70	...
Inc Gth	233.30	245.60	− 8.60	...
Japan Perf	201.80	212.50	...	...
Japan Smlr	173.00	182.20	+ 3.30	...
Natl High	218.00	229.50	− 2.10	...
Prop Shr	126.10	132.80	− 1.70	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Smaller Cos	187.90	197.80	− 0.10	...
Managed Gth	190.20	200.30	+ 2.50	...
Gilt	74.20	78.20	+ 0.90	...
Amer (35.34)	168.40	177.30	+ 3.70	...
British	268.20	282.40	− 0.70	...
Intl Fixed Int	92.80	97.70	+ 1.40	...
Global (35.34)	124.90	131.50	+ 2.10	...
Gold Share	51.00	53.70	− 0.50	...
High Income	222.20	233.90	− 2.70	...
Income	309.20	325.50	− 2.30	...
Japan	287.40	302.60	− 6.10	...
UK Smlr Cos	265.10	279.10	− 0.70	...
Mngd Growth	326.70	343.90	+ 7.10	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS. 051 239 3000				
Royal Shield Fd	709.60	750.80	+ 5.90	...
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	286.10	301.10	+ 2.40	...
Equity Fund	388.10	408.50	+ 0.30	...
Property Fund	234.50	246.80	− 0.10	...
International	319.90	336.70	+ 7.40	...
Pacific Basin	179.20	188.60	+ 2.20	...
United States	158.00	166.30	+ 9.40	...
Gilt Fund	278.00	292.60	+ 2.50	...
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 0708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	572.90	606.30	+ 5.40	...
Deposit Fund (2)	322.00	340.80	+ 0.40	...
Gilt Fund	397.10	420.30	+ 3.90	...
Global Equity Fd	167.00	176.80	+ 1.90	...
Property Fund (46)	84.50	89.50	...	...
AG Bond Fund	117.20	124.10	...	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow. 041 248 2323				
Equity	419.90	442.00	+ 1.30	...
Fixed Interest	279.00	293.70	− 0.30	...
Index-Linked	154.90	163.00	+ 5.60	...
International	299.10	314.90	+ 5.40	...
Property	236.20	248.70	...	...
Cash	202.20	212.90	+ 0.30	...
Managed	331.60	349.10	+ 2.20	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF. 031 556 9101				
Cash	158.42	166.75	+ 0.22	...
Index-Linked	126.70	133.40	+ 1.40	...
Fixed Interest	145.30	152.90	...	...
Mixed	186.00	195.80	+ 2.70	...
UK Equity	179.80	189.30	− 0.10	...
International	187.10	196.90	+ 5.20	...
American	167.50	176.30	+ 5.60	...
Japan	192.90	203.10	− 0.10	...
European	196.80	207.20	+ 7.90	...
Pacific	222.80	234.50	+ 2.80	...
Technology	235.60	248.00	+ 9.40	...
Currncy/Currncy	174.80	184.00	+ 2.30	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE. 031 225 2211				
Property	176.70	186.10	+ 0.10	...
UK Equity	265.50	279.60	− 0.80	...
American	177.50	186.90	+ 5.70	...
Pacific	228.10	240.20	− 1.70	...
European	330.30	347.70	+ 6.60	...
International	215.40	226.90	+ 2.20	...
Fixed Interest	180.70	190.30	+ 0.40	...
Index Linked	160.20	168.70	+ 2.50	...
Deposit	168.50	177.50	+ 0.20	...
Managed	211.30	222.50	+ 0.60	...
Worldwide	91.00	95.90	+ 1.40	...
Pen Worldwide	92.40	97.30	+ 1.40	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN. 041 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	1264.6	1303.8	...	...
Safety Fund	180.70	190.30	− 0.40	...
Growth Fund	175.00	184.30	− 0.60	...
Opportunity Fd	173.40	182.60	− 0.20	...
Cash Fund	153.30	161.40	+ 0.20	...
European Fund	248.60	261.70	+ 6.20	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	152.80	160.90	+ 1.30	...
Index-Linked Fd	142.60	150.20	+ 2.70	...
International Fd	211.00	222.20	+ 9.40	...
North American	184.00	193.70	+ 6.90	...
Property Fund	120.00	126.40	...	...
UK Equity	187.70	197.60	− 0.20	...
UK Smaller	183.60	193.30	+ 3.00	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA. 031 556 9181				
Mixed	195.60	206.00	+ 2.80	...
Equity	206.50	217.50	+ 1.90	...
International	197.70	208.30	+ 5.20	...
Property	200.70	211.40	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	172.90	182.10	+ 2.40	...
Index Linked	142.60	150.20	+ 1.80	...
Cash	166.30	175.20	+ 0.30	...
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU. 031 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	719.50	719.50	+ 0.80	...
Inv Pol 2	659.90	694.80	+ 0.70	...
Inv Pol 3	636.30	669.50	+ 0.50	...
Inv Cash	272.10	286.50	+ 0.40	...
Mixed Fund	351.10	369.60	+ 0.90	...
Equity Fund	416.20	438.20	− 1.20	...
Property Fund	213.60	224.90	+ 0.20	...
International Fd	349.10	367.60	+ 5.70	...
Fixed Interest Fd	278.50	293.20	+ 2.90	...
Indexed Stock Fd	157.80	166.20	+ 2.90	...
Cash Fund	199.60	210.20	+ 0.30	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX. 0703 334411				
Managed Acc	276.60	291.10	...	...
Equity Acc	316.60	333.20	− 2.80	...
International Acc	248.50	261.50	− 2.80	...
Property	216.60	228.00	+ 0.20	...
Royal Trust Mg	180.20	189.60	+ 2.70	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO 3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ. 031 225 2552				
Cash	237.40	249.90	+ 0.30	...
Equity	740.70	779.70	− 0.70	...
European	120.00	126.40	+ 3.30	...
Far East	113.00	119.00	...	...
Fixed Interest	305.30	321.40	+ 2.80	...
Index Linked	161.70	170.30	+ 2.80	...
International	438.80	461.90	+ 7.30	...
Managed	518.20	545.50	+ 2.00	...
Nth American	121.70	128.20	+ 2.90	...
Property	297.00	312.70	+ 0.90	...
Pensions				
Cash	355.10	373.80	+ 0.60	...
Equity	1015.0	1068.0	− 2.00	...
European	139.60	147.00	+ 5.00	...
Far East	86.10	90.70	− 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	395.00	415.80	+ 3.60	...
Index Linked	221.90	233.60	+ 3.80	...
International	585.60	616.50	+10.70	...
Managed	691.60	728.10	+ 2.60	...
Nth American	141.10	148.60	+ 3.30	...
Property	372.20	391.80	+ 0.30	...
Stock Exchange	155.10	163.30	+ 0.60	...
SUN ALLIANCE Sun All House, Horsham, Sussex. 0403 64141				
Managed Fund	478.40	503.60	− 1.20	...
Equity Fund	662.20	697.10	− 3.50	...
Fixed Interest Fd	330.30	347.70	+ 3.20	...
Index-Linked Fd	243.10	255.90	+ 4.10	...
Property Fund	391.80	412.50	+ 0.90	...
International Fd	431.40	454.20	+ 1.20	...
N American Fd	165.10	173.80	+ 9.90	...
Far East Fund	139.60	147.00	+ 1.50	...
Deposit Fund	257.90	271.50	+ 0.30	...
International Bd	‡54.82	...	+ 1.23	...
Worldwide Bond	121.20	127.60	+ 2.30	...
Worldwide Fund	73.70	77.60	+ 0.10	...
Worldwide Tech	87.30	91.90	+ 0.10	...
European	111.50	117.40	+ 3.60	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	463.70	488.20	+ 1.00	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	340.10	362.10	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund	‡443.50	...	+ 0.90	...
-do- Acc	‡418.40	...	+ 0.80	...
Agricultural Fd	‡681.90	...	+ 1.00	...
-do- Acc	‡655.20	...	+ 0.90	...
Abbey Nat Fd	‡353.50	...	+ 0.50	...
Abbey Nat Acc	‡377.50	...	+ 0.50	...
Investment Fd	‡252.90	...	− 0.60	...
Investment (A)	‡243.70	...	− 0.60	...
Equity	‡956.10	...	− 4.90	...
Equity Acc	‡921.10	...	− 4.80	...
Money Fund	‡406.00	...	+ 0.60	...
-do- Acc	‡390.50	...	+ 0.50	...
Actuarial Fd	‡439.90	...	− 0.50	...
Gilt-Edged Fd	‡307.40	...	+ 2.90	...
-do- Acc	‡307.40	...	+ 2.90	...
Retire Annuity	‡906.30	...	...	...
Immed Annuity	‡292.50	..	...	...
Bldg Soc Life	‡198.50	...	+ 0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ. Dealing: 0256 841414				
Growth Accum	‡1052.3	...	...	...
Managed Acc	‡628.80	...	+17.60	...
Equity Accum	‡885.40		+30.60	...
Mngd Fund Acc	293.70	309.20	+ 8.60	...
Equity Fund Acc	393.40	414.10	+14.10	...
Prop Fund Acc	236.70	249.10	+ 0.60	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	236.60	249.10	+ 1.90	...
Money Fund Acc	192.70	202.90	+ 0.50	...
Indx-Lnk Scr Ac	163.20	171.80	− 0.40	...
Pens Pens Accs	‡1319.0	...	+26.00	...
Pens Mngd Accs	613.40	645.70	+12.70	...
Pens Guarantee	194.60	204.90	+ 0.40	...
Pens Equity	234.10	246.40	+ 5.40	...
Pens Property	217.00	228.50	+ 1.40	...
Pens Fixed Int	208.70	219.70	+ 3.40	...
Pens Intl	159.80	168.30	+ 4.70	...
Pens Money	198.50	208.90	+ 0.40	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	152.50	160.60	+ 1.60	...
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL. 0272 426911				
Managed Acc	637.50	671.10	− 0.60	...
Property Acc	285.00	300.10	+ 2.00	...
Equity Acc	1019.6	1073.3	−10.30	...
Fixed Int Acc	296.90	312.60	+ 2.00	...
Index-Linked Acc	156.80	165.10	+ 1.80	...
Cash Acc	270.80	285.10	+ 0.40	...
Amer Equity Acc	256.40	269.90	+ 7.10	...
Japan Acc	233.10	245.40	− 0.50	...
Pacific Acc	186.20	196.00	+ 4.00	...
Far Eastern Acc	476.10	501.20	+ 8.40	...
International Acc	339.90	357.80	+ 1.50	...
Distribution Fund	232.10	244.40	− 0.40	8.18
European	126.20	132.90	+ 2.30	...
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants SP10 1RE. 0264 345678				
Managed Fund	211.90	223.10	+ 1.10	...
Property Fund	170.30	179.40	...	...
Fixed Interest Fd	176.10	185.50	+ 2.00	...
Money Fund	175.50	184.80	+ 0.10	...
Equity Fund	274.40	288.90	+ 2.00	...
TARGET LIFE The Exchange, 66 High Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. 0296 394000				
American Eagle	122.70	129.20	+ 4.10	...
Australian	22.70	23.90	− 0.30	...
Deposit	222.30	234.10	+ 0.30	...
Residential Prop	95.90	101.00	...	...
Financial	198.70	209.30	− 0.80	...
Fixed Interest	274.60	289.10	+ 1.00	...
Gold	55.10	58.10	− 1.50	...
Income	277.80	292.50	− 2.60	...
International Eqy	290.00	305.30	+ 5.10	...
Japan	315.50	332.20	+ 0.30	...
Managed	452.80	476.70	+ 3.10	...
International Bd	93.10	98.00	+ 1.50	...
Managed Prop	184.80	194.60	− 2.50	...
Preference	192.80	203.00	+ 1.20	...
Property	251.60	264.90	...	...
Sterling	...	10.80	...	...
UK Cap	184.50	194.30	− 1.40	...
World Income	208.90	219.90	+ 2.90	...
Euro Situations	188.10	198.10	+ 3.90	...

Source: Finstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data.

Customers' time does matter

Customers' time and effort is worth something. That was the lesson learned by Norwich Union when it paid out £200 this week to a customer who had spent hours in correspondence over errors in a policy document. Every other financial institution ought to take note.

The customer, who happens to be a solicitor, decided to take out a personal pension last spring. When the policy documents arrived, there was no notice telling him of his right to cancel. The documents also failed to acknowledge the policyholder's age, although he had sent in a copy of his birth certificate, and did not detail that the money would be invested in the with-profits funds as he had requested.

He wrote immediately to the chief executive pointing out that the documentation was defective. Then followed lengthy correspondence, first of all with the local branch of the company and then with senior executives.

After three months the documentation was sorted out and a proper schedule was issued. He then decided that he wanted a token payment from Norwich Union to cover all the extra work he had been put to. He suggested £50.

Norwich Union asked the customer to break down his time and expenses and then, after requiring this extra effort, refused to pay anything. In the meantime the customer — having realised just how much of his time had been wasted — was asking for £120 compensation.

Further intransigence from Norwich Union led to the case being taken to the Insurance Ombudsman and the claim being increased to £200.

Ombudsmen do not usually award compensation for the time taken to complain but, as Norwich Union had been in breach of statute and the customer had been required by the company to give a breakdown of the time involved and expenses incurred, a significant measure of compensation was deemed appropriate by Dr Julian Farrand, the insurance ombudsman.

COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

Since taking out the policy, the reader has taken out another, but did not consider Norwich Union.

There is nothing new about the complaint. Weekend Money regularly hears from readers who are sent incorrect policy documents and are then given the run around by the company when they try to get it sorted out. Others still complain of inefficiencies in setting up policies that result in a backlog of direct debits all being claimed in one month.

Financial institutions need to recognise, when they get it wrong, that they, not the customer, should pay. It is exasperating to spend months writing letters to different people in a company who do not appear to have read the earlier correspondence.

While the victory for one reader does not set any legal precedent it ought to cause companies to look at the way they deal with complaints. Top quality staff can turn a grievance into an advantage for a company. Regarding every customer as a time-wasting nuisance can only lose business in the end.

Good companies allow branch managers and relatively junior staff to sort out a complaint with an ex gratia offer. One bank used to send bottles of wine to men and bunches of flowers to women customers. It changed to modest cash when a teetotaller complained. It argues that such payments are cost-effective as a complaint can be disposed of with one letter instead of involving the bank in lengthy and expensive correspondence.

Right move

An industrial tribunal ruled this week that companies that take over other companies must maintain pension benefits. The decision by Hull Industrial Tribunal will be welcomed by many employees who know how few rights they have where pensions are concerned.

Previously it had been thought that pension benefits were excluded from legal protection. The case was brought by the Manufacturing Science and Finance Union on behalf of a member employed by Walden Engineering. The company had taken over Richard Sizer last year and had declined to continue the Sizer pension scheme.

The tribunal ruled that pension benefits of equivalent value must be provided.

A European directive on aquired rights excludes supplementary pension schemes. The UK transfer of undertakings regulations, which oblige employers to consult trade unions about pensions, mainly apply to changes of ownership of private companies or subsidiaries of public companies that are sold. This week's ruling is another move in the right direction.

Campaigners want workplace crèche relief extended to childminding allowances in Budget

Better tax breaks for childcare demanded

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE campaign for more tax concessions on childcare began in earnest this week when Budget submissions were made calling for all employees who receive help with childcare to be treated the same.

Since April 1990, those parents who use a workplace nursery have paid no tax on the benefit, whereas employees who receive other help with childcare are taxed if their total annual income including the childcare subsidy is more than £8,500.

The Campaign for Tax Relief and Childcare (Trac) says that removing the tax on employer-funded childcare would cost £1.65 million a year to benefit 8,000 parents, compared with the £3.36 million annual cost of exempting workplace nurseries from tax. There are currently 4,000 places in workplace crèches, which typically cost employers £100 each a week in subsidies. The number has increased by 1,000 since the 1990 Budget but the high start-up costs have deterred other employers from following suit. Midland Bank, the company with the most, has 111 and plans to stop when four more are opened. This is fewer than half the number originally planned.

In the London area 48 workplace nurseries have closed in the past two years.

Trac's long-term aim is that childcare should be tax-deductible if it enables a parent to go out to work. In France, parents can claim a tax allowance for childcare costs if these enable them to take up paid employment.

Trac estimated before talks with Treasury officials last year that the cost of extending tax relief to all paid-for childcare would be £80 million a year, but the Treasury said the cost would be £200 million.

Much of this would go to higher-paid workers who can pay up to £200 a week for a nanny in London plus the nanny's tax, employer's and employee's national insurance contributions and poll tax. The average cost for a nanny in London is currently £150 a week, although trained nannies start at £100. Outside London the cost of a live-in nanny starts at £80.

To pay for the average nanny in London needs a gross income of £17,200 for a 25 per cent taxpayer, according to KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountant. A higher-rate taxpayer could find childcare taking the top £20,000 of his or her income.

Childminders are cheaper but they charge per child. This can be from £50 a week for full-time care with a minimum of £10 a day per child, recommended by the National Childminding Association. The hourly minimum for shorter care is £1.30.

There are about 100,000 registered childminders and they set their own rates according to demand and their own costs. The top rate is usually £85 a week for one child. In Bristol, for example, the cost of a minder in the area near the university could be the maximum, whereas across town in the St Paul's area it would be barely the minimum, Kay Lyons, of the National Childminding Association, said. These rates are all that the parent has to pay, as minders are self-employed and take care of their own national insurance contributions, if they earn more than £52 a week, and tax, if their profits on the childminding business exceed £3,295.

Some employers are setting up networks of subsidised childminders for their employees to use. The first to do so was Allied Dunbar, the investment group, in Swindon. The company has a workplace nursery and provides the network for parents who do not live close enough to the Swindon headquarters. The scheme provides replacement childminders when the usual one is ill or on holiday and will give emergency cover for employees with live-in nannies or relatives looking after their children. The Allied Dunbar network started in September 1990 and now has 40 minders with 20 used on a regular basis.

Childcare vouchers were launched two years ago and currently 3,000 parents benefit from them. This year £3.5 million is likely to be paid to employees in voucher form, and the Inland Revenue is expected to receive £630,000 in tax on this. While workplace nursery subsidies are no longer regarded as a taxable benefit, other payments and help, including places paid for at independent nurseries, are still taxed at their full value for employees. This means that anyone earning £8,500 or more, including the benefit, pays tax on it at their top rate. Employees' national insurance contributions are not charged on the vouchers.

So far most of the recipients of the vouchers are in the public sector. Employers offering them include health authorities, county councils and the National Audit Office.

The employers decide on the amount to be paid to employees. It ranges from £5 a week to £90, paid by a solicitors' office to one partner. The average is £25 per employee although some firms pay more if the employee has more than one child.

The recipient is free to choose any form of paid childcare. These are usually childminder, nanny or nursery, to whom the employee pays the vouchers in part, or full, payment. The vouchers are then returned to Childcare Vouchers, a subsidiary of Luncheon Vouchers, and the carer should be sent a cheque within 24 hours. The employer pays a service fee ranging from 5.9 per cent to 7.8 per cent of the value of the vouchers issued but does not pay employers' national insurance contributions on them.

Trac estimates that 12,000 people get help of some sort from their employer with childcare. It recognises that the number would rise if no tax was charged to the employee on the benefit, but feels it would not be open to abuse.

In its submission to the Treasury it says that Heaton v Bell in 1970 indicated that, where salary was replaced by a benefit, the benefit would be treated as if it were still salary for tax and national insurance purposes.

There are 2,500 subsidised nursery places at independent nurseries, 1,500 employees receiving cash allowances, 500 parents using childminding networks, and about 500 employees getting an allowance to pay for nannies, according to Trac.

Working for Childcare is also campaigning for tax exemption for any childcare help provided by employers, but does not want general tax relief for all childcare. Next week, together with several providers of childcare and other parent lobby groups, it will launch a campaign to make childcare an election issue. Vote for Childcare will write to all political candidates pointing out the need for the provision of more childcare places.

Some employers are setting up networks of subsidised childminders for employees

PETER TRIEVNOR

Taking off the strain: Linda Bradley's employer subsidises day care for Elena

Corporate warm feeling

LINDA Bradley gets Childcare vouchers worth £37.50 a week from BMW, her employer. These go towards the £85 a week she pays a local childminder to look after 18-month-old Elena.

The car company, based in Bracknell, Berkshire, pays 75p an hour for childcare up to a maximum of 50 hours a week. It is available to any employee with children under 14 in paid care, but not as a subsidy for private education.

Since it was launched last January — two months after Mrs Bradley returned to work — 40 staff have taken advantage of it. Three-quarters are men, and in some cases the vouchers have enabled their wives to work for other companies.

Mrs Bradley works as a human resources adviser and pays tax at 25 per cent on the vouchers. This amounts to £9.37, cutting the cash advantage to her to £28.13. "It is still a great help in paying for the childminder who looks after Elena and her own children," Mrs Bradley said.

If a workplace nursery were available, she might not want to use it as she lives some distance from her office and prefers Elena to spend her days in a home environment.

The scheme can be used on an occasional basis so that parents can go shopping or to appointments and pay for their children to be looked after. "The actual amounts may not be great but it takes the strain off families and gives employees a warm feeling about the company," a spokesman said.

At Cornwall County Council parents who are members of administrative, professional, technical and clerical staff can get up to £25 in vouchers to pay for childcare. The scheme started in December 1990 and was renewed for a further year last month. About 70 employees, mostly women, receive the vouchers to pay for childcare for under-fives.

Most of the recipients are full-time and are taxed at the basic rate on the benefit, Julie Harrison, principal personnel officer, said.

Debenhams' Lakeside store at Thurrock, Essex, began a Childcare Vouchers scheme when it opened in October 1990. At the time, a large number of retailers were recruiting for the development and Debenhams wanted to give itself an advantage, Jo Steen, personnel manager, explained.

So far about 50 staff — all women — receive vouchers. Because most of them are part-time they do not pay tax on them.

Teachers in Tower Hamlets, London, can get £16 a week in vouchers for each child in care. The education authority also operates a crèche, which closes at 4.30 every day.

France is the most generous

FOUR European Community countries provide tax relief for parents to help with childcare costs. France is the most generous. Parents can subtract the cost of the childcare from their own gross salary and do not pay tax on it. To qualify, both parents must be employed and the child or children must be looked after by a non-relative.

The allowance is available until children are seven years old. In addition, the amount of the social contributions paid for the employment of the childcarer can be claimed, up to Fr2,000 a month.

There is a separate grant to cover the insurance contributions of childminders paid to look after children up to six outside the family home. This covers the social security, pension contributions and unemployment insurance of the carer. To qualify, the salary of the registered nanny must not be more than five times the national minimum wage.

Families also get tax relief for children. This is equivalent to half an adult tax allowance for the first two children and a full allowance for subsequent children.

Belgian families can claim tax relief on 80 per cent of the costs of care for children under three. Parents have to use a publicly approved service to get the allowance. As a result, some registered carers have stopped taking in children rather than declare their income and pay taxes. Others have increased their fees.

Luxembourg families who pay for childcare can claim a tax-free allowance for children under 14 so long as they supply proof of their costs. In Portugal, tax relief is also available, but without proof of the childcare costs only half the relief can be claimed.

The Dutch government withdrew tax relief on childcare in 1990 because higher-paid earners were getting a disproportionate benefit. It decided to spend the money saved on day nurseries and family day care services.

In America the system also benefits high earners most. Parents can set up to 30 per cent of their childcare costs against their tax liability, up to $2,400 per child. The cost of the tax relief almost quadrupled between 1981 to 1990. It rose from $1.2 billion to $4.4 billion.

Only 2 per cent of children under three have publicly-funded childcare in Britain, compared with 48 per cent in Denmark and 20 per cent in France and Belgium.

هكذا من الأصل

Don't let lump sums burn a hole in your pocket

Helen Pridham finds the best move if you receive cash at redundancy is to put it in a high-interest account and wait

NEXT week's unemployment figures are expected to show a further rise after November's 39,000 jump. But many of the newly jobless have the blow softened by lump sums.

These can be quite substantial for people with long service, but deciding how best to use the money can present more problems, says Moira Elms, a senior manager at Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountant. "For many people made redundant," she says, "such lump sum payments are the largest amounts they have ever had to deal with. Even for those who are used to making financial decisions, the situation is often completely different from anything they have faced in the past."

More and more companies are asking experts to provide advice in seminars before redundant employees leave. Those who are not lucky enough to have had such advice make easy prey for financial salesmen.

Mrs Elms says: "We have come across cases of redundant people being sold completely unsuitable products, such as with-profits bonds, which are designed for long-term investment and have heavy front-end charges to cover the high commission the salesman receives. It means if the redundant person is out of a job for longer than he expects and needs to cash in his investment, he may get back considerably less than he invested."

A Prudential spokeswoman said while redundancy courses could be provided for companies, salesmen had no special training to deal with clients who sought advice on what to do with their lump sums. "After completing a personal financial review," she said, "a salesman will give advice based on the range of products he sells. He may well recommend a bond."

Financial advisers paid fees for their services by employers, and who do not rely on commission, say there is only one course of action suitable for most people when they are made redundant. Mrs Elms comments: "Since few know how long they are going to be out of work or to what extent they will have to supplement state benefits from their own resources, the only sensible thing to do is to put their money on deposit in a bank or building society."

Harry Roberts, divisional director of Towry Law, a financial intermediary, agrees. "Most people need their cash to tide them over until their next job, so it must be accessible. Whether it is £5,000 or £50,000, a high interest account is the best option."

Kean Seager of Whitechurch Securities, another independent adviser, cautions against taking an immediate transfer value from a former employer's scheme and investing elsewhere. "It would be better to wait and see what your new job offers first." He says it is worth waiting for the European Court's judgment on the Coloroll case, expected in the spring. "This will clarify how pension schemes should provide equal benefits for men and women and may well result in higher values for men."

Even people who decide to use redundancy as an opportunity to take early retirement should not be hasty. Bernard Ring, of the Pre-Retirement Association, says: "Don't lock into a long-term investment, such as an annuity, in the early years of retirement that you may end up regretting for 20 years or more."

Mr Roberts of Towry Law says the first priorities when you are made redundant are to register as unemployed and to consider the tax position. "Even if you are receiving an early retirement pension, registering as unemployed will ensure that your National Insurance contributions are covered, so that you do not lose out on state pension, sickness or invalidity benefits in the future." He adds: "If a man is married and his wife is not working, he should consider giving some of his redundancy cash to her so that she can ask for interest to be paid gross to use up her personal allowance. If she is working, he could transfer his married person's allowance to her." Mr Seager says people should think carefully about repaying debts. "Repaying credit card bills is generally a good idea because of the high rate of interest, but not if by doing so you are short of cash. Similarly, while you might consider paying off that part of your mortgage that exceeds the £30,000 tax relief limit, it may not be worth the loss of the flexibility that having the capital gives you."

The time to decide whether to do more with your money is when you have a new job, Mrs Elms says. "One of the first things to do is to check to see how your pension has suffered. You may decide you need to top it up. Then, if you want to save for a rainy day, there are a number of alternatives you can consider before seeking financial advice, such as 36th Issue National Savings Certificates, 5th Issue Index Linked and tax exempt special savings accounts."

But even when you have a new job, Mr Seager believes it is better to wait a while. "Find out if you like the job and whether your face fits. Make sure the company is sound. If it also starts to hit difficulties you may be the first to be asked to leave."

PETER TRIEVNOR

Be wary of financial salesmen: Moira Elms advises putting cash on deposit rather than tying it up at once

Decision time on power and BT share sales

BY LIZ DOLAN

THE second, and final, payment for shares in National Power and PowerGen is due next month. Shareholders must pay a further 75p a share, or 61p if they applied for an instalment discount.

Those who do not wish to pay the call must sell their shares by Friday January 24. If they have not sold them by then, they will have to pay at least £225, or £183 if they applied for an instalment discount, by February 4, or risk losing their shares. They cannot sell until next Wednesday, when new "number 3" certificates are due to arrive.

Most of the current 883,989 National Power and 819,551 PowerGen holders bought at the 100p issue price when both companies joined the stock market last spring. They are sitting on gains of 32p for National Power and 42p for PowerGen. At their peak last autumn, National Power hit 170p and PowerGen 179p. Graeme Moyse, an analyst at Kleinwort Benson, said both were worth holding for a couple of years, even if Labour won the election, but were not good for short-term gain.

Most people hold only the minimum 114 PowerGen and 186 National Power shares issued when the companies joined the stock market. They will therefore have to shop around to avoid losing all their profit in dealing costs, which have to be paid separately for each company.

Skipton Building Society (0800 232324) charges £9 minimum, plus £2 per extra family member with the same surname and address. A family of four selling shares in both pays £30. The Share Centre, in Tring, charges a minimum £10 per company, with family members at the same address paying an extra £1.25 each per company. There is no limit to the number of people in the same household using the service. Sellers of BT partly-paid shares via the Share Centre pay £9.50 minimum.

The eight special BT II offer share shops charge lower than normal dealing rates. Barclays' share shop charges a minimum rate of £12.50. It does not accept discount vouchers. "We wanted to keep it simple," said Justin Urquhart-Stewart, head of customer services. NatWest's postal service costs £9.95, plus £1.25 for each additional family member. Its branch-based touch-screen service costs £25 minimum, or £15 with share shop discount vouchers, with up to four extra family members free. Norwich & Peterborough charges £20 minimum, or £14 for 35 popular shares, including the generating companies.

The share shops are braced for a rush of sellers when BT goes ex-dividend on Monday. Warburg, broker to the latest BT issue, caused confusion by implying in the prospectus that shareholders who wanted to qualify for the first dividend must keep their shares until January 31. The prospectus said only holders on the register at that date would qualify. A spokesman said January 31 was a "record date", allowing two weeks to ensure all those who owned the shares on, or after, January 13 appeared on the register.

Sales so far have been very slow because of the disappointing premium. They have started to pick up this week, possibly because some people are taking advantage of the higher cum-dividend price. Mr Urquhart-Stewart has also noticed a slight upturn in the number of people using the special vouchers for buying shares.

Until recently, the ratio was 80:20 in favour of sellers. Over the past few days, the proportion had moved closer to 70:30, he said. "That's good news, because the whole point of setting up the share shops was to make the stock market accessible to a wider section of the public."

The energetic Skipton Building Society, not one of the eight official share shops, has still managed to pick up more BT business than at least one of the government-backed shops.

The Skipton has sold three million BT partly-paids for people tempted by its £5 rate. The Norwich & Peterborough, which charges £9.50 for BT II sales, has sold slightly more than two million to date, despite the free marketing it has enjoyed as an one of the official share shops.

Rupert Bruce says building societies lose their appeal fast when interest rates fall

Capital options for an income

WITH interest rates falling, the attraction of building society deposit accounts is fading and people are beginning to invest for income elsewhere.

As base rates have slipped 4.5 per cent from their peak of 15 per cent, so the gross rate of interest paid by the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society's highest yielding account has fallen from 15.3 per cent to 11.2 per cent. Money has fled the building societies into investments such as the best selling "with profits" life assurance bonds, which took more than £1 billion last year.

Also pitching for the building society money are equity income unit trusts and gilts. Annuities are also attracting some money, despite a fall in rates, but they differ from the other options in that the original lump sum is lost.

As a simple rule of thumb, gilts offer the most predictable return of all three investments, and income unit trusts the least. But then income unit trusts tend to offer a better investment return. With-profits bonds fall between the two on both counts.

But before taking their savings from the building society, investors should remember that these are not short-term investments. Anyone who will need their money in less than three or four years should leave it where it is.

A well-run equity income unit trust is the most efficient alternative to the building society. Shielded by a personal equity plan, a well-managed fund can give a high return free from tax. The M&G Group is credited with developing the investment, although many have followed over the years. Tim Miller, M&G's marketing director, said: "If you are investing you have the choice of a higher fixed-rate investment or a lower income from equities. But with equities your income should grow in the future."

Equity income unit trusts are portfolios of shares chosen because they pay high dividends. Those dividends increase every year when times are good and so should the shares' value. Over time both the trust's yield and value should increase.

M&G's four UK equity income funds are currently paying a gross income of between 6.8 per cent and 7.8 per cent. On top of that there should be some capital appreciation in the amount invested.

But the performance of these income funds — there are about 120 of them — varies widely. While £100 invested in the Newton Income fund at the beginning of 1986 with income reinvested would now be worth £244.30, the same sum in the Dolphin Dividend fund would be worth only £95.10.

Over the next year, investment managers face a difficult time maintaining the funds' yields. Recession-hit companies are likely to cut their dividend payments.

Most equity income unit trusts pay out only twice a year. Those wanting a more frequent income could buy a selection of trusts with different pay days.

M&G takes 5 per cent from its funds initially and then 0.75 per cent annually in charges. This is at the cheap end of the scale, but charges should not be much more than that.

Gilts are the favoured investments of grandmothers all over the country, who like to buy them and not lose any sleep at night. They are guaranteed by the Treasury, pay a fixed income, and will be redeemed at a set price.

The income yield is paid out twice a year, and each gilt is worth 100p when it is finally repaid. So a Treasury 8.75pc 1997 with a price of 95.9p last week will pay an income yield of 8.75 per cent every year between now and 1997, when the holder will receive 100p back.

The total return on a gilt held to redemption, including both income and capital appreciation, varies between about 9 and 10 per cent

Gilts also offer investors the opportunity to choose between income and capital gain. The higher the yield on a gilt the lower its price. Top-rate taxpayers often buy gilts with a low yield, or "coupon", because they want big tax-free capital gains.

Paul Killik, senior partner of Killick & Co., the private client stockbroker, , recommends that investors buy gilts with a spread of maturity dates over five, 10 and 15 years. If they do not, investors might find most of their gilts redeemed when it is difficult to get good rates of return on investments.

Stockbrokers take 1 per cent of the sum invested for dealing in gilts. Alternatively, gilts can be bought more cheaply through the Post Office and put on the National Savings Bank register. In that case, income is paid without tax deductions.

Where with-profits bonds score against the others is in their flexibility. It is up to the investor to decide how much income to draw, although the more the money paid out as income, the less the bond will be worth when it is cashed in. The income can also be paid as frequently as it is needed.

The disadvantages are that capital gains tax is deducted from gains and cannot be reclaimed, and the salesman earns almost double the commission he would for selling a unit trust, which has an influence on the performance of the bond.

The with-profits bond is aggressively sold as a half-way house between equities and the building society. There is some truth in this — it has an investment performance approaching that of a portfolio of shares without the volatility. But it tends not to perform quite as well as a pure equity investment, nor is it as stable as the society.

Underlying the with-profits bond is a fund mainly made up of equities, but which also holds property and fixed interest securities. They make its performance smooth but not spectacular. Many of these bonds also have facilities for switching into pure equity or cash funds.

Insurers are cutting their bonus rates on these investments because the equity and property markets have not lived up to expectations.

Because it is a life assurance product investors can take the equivalent of 5 per cent of their initial investment each year without paying tax. The fund itself pays tax at 25 per cent, so there is no benefit to the standard-rate taxpayer, but there is to the higher-rate, 40 per cent taxpayer.

The life company takes its profit from an initial charge, typically about 5 per cent of the lump sum, and an annual charge of about 0.75 per cent which is deducted from the with-profits fund.

Bristol bond comes with a safety guarantee

INVESTORS suffering from a bad case of burnt fingers after dabbling in unit trusts, or venturing directly into the stock market, may be ready for a slightly less risky type of equity investment.

A new guaranteed equity bond from the Bristol & West building society promises to safeguard the original investment, while allowing it to benefit when the stock market is rising. The initial capital is also protected during a falling market by a guaranteed interest payment that should go some way to offset the effects of inflation. If the market rises, the bond pays a gross interest rate tied to the performance of the FT-SE 100 index, which reflects changes in the share prices of the top 100 companies quoted on the London Stock Exchange.

The guaranteed rate of return is 25 per cent gross for a five-year term, or 9 per cent for three years. This is equivalent to simple interest calculated at 3 per cent, or 5 per cent gross per annum, a rate that is obviously much lower than those currently available on tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas).

It is therefore aimed at people who do not want to lose their capital, which is safe as long as the inflation rate remains at moderate levels, but are willing to sacrifice a higher guaranteed gain for the possibility of a much greater return at the end of the five years. The initial investment is also protected from downside risks such as dealing costs.

The bond is not subject to the charges conventionally associated with unit trust or other stock market investments. There is no initial charge, no bid-offer spread, and no annual management fee.

At the end of the three- or five-year term, the return is calculated by working out the percentage difference between the FT-SE index on February 13 1992 and the index on the same date in either 1995 or 1997. To chart the progress of their investment during the period, bondholders should work out the percentage difference between the prevailing, and initial, FT-SE 100 indices.

The bond is available for a maximum of one month. Tony Fitzsimmons, chief executive of Bristol & West, said funds would be accepted on a first come, first served, basis until, at the very latest, February 11, but he expected the popularity of the offer would cause it to close earlier. The minimum investment is £1,000, the maximum £1 million. The funds are then locked in for the life of the bond, unless the bondholder dies.

Interest will be paid net of basic rate tax unless investors submit a form stating that they are non-taxpayers. The bond is available to individual investors only.

هكذا من الأصل

Barclays runs pilot computer scheme in nine branches

Banking at the touch of a button

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

COMPUTERS that order foreign currency, sell insurance policies, pay bills and give mortgage quotes have been installed in nine branches of Barclays Bank to reduce queues at the desks of personal bankers.

Looking like a cash dispenser, the only service they do not offer is money. Barclays' customers can complete transactions on the screens by using their Connect card and personal identification number.

Customers from other banks can obtain quotes from the machine for household or travel insurance, or learn the foreign exchange rates available, but they cannot go ahead and buy without human intervention.

Barclays users can go ahead and arrange home contents insurance on the spot and be issued with a cover note by the machine. They can also pay bills without making prior arrangements.

As long as they have got the voucher from their electricity, gas, community charge or credit card bill, they can key in the amount they wish to pay and feed the voucher into the machine. It then issues a receipt.

Customers can select when the bill is to be paid. This way they can cut it fine on paying credit card or electricity bills, making sure that their salary is paid and that they do not pay earlier than they need to.

Barclays has not offered bill-paying via machine before. Automated teller machines offering bill-paying services usually need the customer to pre-arrange with the financial institution which companies he or she will pay in this way.

London branches in Cheapside and Victoria are taking part in the six-month pilot. So are Albion Street, Leeds; Kings Street, Maidstone; Queens Road, Bristol; Swindon; Wantage; Woking and Selby branches.

The Bristol branch was chosen because it is close to the university and has a large number of student customers.

Selby, with a population of 12,000, was selected because it was thought that not many customers would be confident with computers, a bank spokeswoman said. People in Yorkshire took to it immediately. "It was like Dr Who's Tardis arriving." Dozens of customers in the relatively small branch with no passing trade have been over to look at the machine with the colour screen. The first person to use it was a customer who is going to Australia. She wanted to know the exchange rate for Australian dollars and went on to obtain a quote for 57 days' travel insurance.

Selby pioneer: Bev Walker, a Barclays customer, tries the new technology

Andrew Bailey, manager of self-service banking at Barclays, said the nine TouchBank screens were very much a research project. The bank had chosen a cross-section of locations to find out what services customers wanted.

For the first time, customers will be able to obtain a statement instantly from a machine. The bank's cash dispensers only give a credit balance and allow customers to order statements. In addition, customers can obtain a print out of all their standing orders and direct debits straightaway.

Those who buy insurance or order traveller's cheques they do not need will be able to cancel by contacting a member of the bank's staff.

The bank's house contents insurance requires the post code, number of bedrooms in the home and the value of contents for the machine to issue a quote.

The £1 million pilot could lead to the machines being offered in all 2,500 branches of the bank at a cost of £200 million.

Bank balance size remains a mystery to most

BY LIZ DOLAN

A LARGE number of households still take a surprisingly relaxed attitude to personal debt, despite the recession, according to a survey on consumer spending habits carried out for Mercantile Credit, the personal loan company.

Fewer than one in five people questioned were making more of an effort to budget carefully than they did before the downturn, although nearly one third of all respondents, rising to 37 per cent in the hard-hit South, had been forced to spend less.

However, this was the only obvious sign of concerted belt tightening south of the Wash. Overall, southerners seem to be taking a surprisingly relaxed attitude to debt, the survey found. Fewer than one in two knew how much money they had in their bank accounts at any time, and over half admitted they were not very good at budgeting. More than two in three east Midlanders said they always budgeted carefully. The Scots turned out to be a more financially slapdash nation than their popular image may indicate. Their answers indicated that they were, in fact, almost as bad as Southerners at juggling their finances.

These regional trends held firm throughout the survey. Olivia Rossiter of Mercantile Credit said: "We can only guess at the reasons. Possibly southerners have traditionally regarded themselves as affluent, and it is taking them a while to react to the new situation.

"There's probably an element of 'it hasn't happened to me yet, so why should I bother?', whereas Midlanders, who had a tough time in the early Eighties are still very cautious. Or maybe it's just a cultural thing going back over generations. For instance, men in Yorkshire and Humberside still take less responsibility for household expenses than those in other areas, probably a hangover from the days when Yorkshire miners handed over their paypackets to their wives on a Friday night."

A cavalier attitude to debt is by no means a Southern preserve. More than half of the people surveyed throughout the country are still failing to keep a running total of their bank balance, and one in four say they will spend money even if they believe there is no money in their account.

Women are more careful with their cash than men, although this may be partly due to the fact that they tend to have lower disposable incomes. One in three keeps detailed records of personal and household expenditure, compared with one in five men.

To help spendthrifts face facts, Mercantile has produced a free household accounts booklet, in which all income and outgoings should be recorded every week.

More kids say 'yes' to the TSB

THE offer of a free pair of jeans and a leather wallet has been too much for most school leavers to resist. TSB has doubled its share of this market since it launched its special school leaver account, complete with free gifts and a cash dispenser card.

The bank, which plans to add to the school leaver package in the spring, now has 17 per cent of the market against 9 per cent a year ago.

During the year the bank has also taken its education initiative into 3,000 secondary schools and appointed 170 school liaison officers to give money management advice lessons to pupils.

Barclays, the largest bank, still attracts most school leavers, although it offers only a £10 music voucher or £6 cash to those opening accounts.

Lloyds' card-based Headway account gives an electronic databank for logging telephone numbers, a cash card and a cheque guarantee card for those over 16. Interest is paid monthly at 4.13 per cent net (5.5 per cent gross) on all balances.

Midland offers the Midland Live Cash account for 13 to 18-year-olds, which allows them to purchase compact discs for £9.49 and cassettes at £6.49. National Westminster Bank has no free gifts for 16-year-olds.

Girobank to levy credit card fee

GIROBANK is to relinquish its status as one of the few banks who do not charge an annual fee for credit cards. However, it is unlikely to start charging credit card customers until later this year, probably during the fourth quarter.

Philip Bryant, corporate affairs manager, said: "We are one of a dwindling number not to impose a fee, but we can't maintain that policy for ever." It was far too early to say how much customers would be asked to pay, or whether the bank would employ some sort of tiered charging structure, he added.

Credit cardholders can cheer themselves up with the news that Girobank has decided to bring down interest rates on all outstanding balances on its Classic and Oxfam Visa cards. From January 2, the annual percentage rate has been reduced from 28.3 per cent to 26.5 per cent. The rate on Girobank's gold card is unchanged at 18.7 per cent.

The Co-operative Bank has extended its "free" gold card offer for a further six months. The bank has had more than 80,000 applications and says it has issued some 65,000 cards. The card gives up to 46 days' free credit to customers who pay their outstanding balance by the due date. Those who borrow but make payments by direct debit are charged 1.75 per cent a month, an annual percentage rate of 23.1 per cent. The interest rate is 26.8 per cent APR for other payment methods.

Many applicants complained that they were unfairly turned down when the card was first launched in September. Since then a large proportion have been accepted as customers after their applications were re-examined.

Lenders jostle for rare business

BY LIZ DOLAN

PAULA YOUENS

AS repossessions continue to rise and house prices to fall, mortgage lenders are having to dig deeper than ever to find products attractive enough to tempt reluctant homebuyers. This has resulted in a steady flow of fixed-rate and capped mortgages, with rates shaved to increasingly generous levels.

Michael Hughes, chief investment strategist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, said: "I have a feeling that interest rates over the next five or ten years will be marginally lower than those on offer from fixed-rate schemes, but they do offer substantial peace of mind, which is something that many people will be quite willing to pay a bit extra for."

The other question homebuyers must bear in mind was what was likely to happen to house prices over the next ten years, he said.

During that period, there would be fewer 25 to 29-year-olds who powered the housing booms of the early Seventies and late Eighties. Mr Hughes calculates that, taken by itself, this factor would reduce house prices in real terms by 20 per cent, although that was without accounting for all the other variables that affect them.

The Halifax Building Society reports few signs of any recovery in the housing market. It expects prices to start increasing by the end of 1992, but rises will be marginal. House prices fell by 3.5 per cent last year, the society said. During December alone, they declined by 1.3 per cent. It is no wonder that lenders are getting desperate.

The Leeds Permanent Building Society, which last week stunned the rest of the market with a 25-year fixed-rate scheme, has subsequently launched a more conventional two-year "cap and collar" mortgage, capped at 10.75 per cent. The minimum rate, or collar, is 9.75 per cent, which comes into force when the society's variable rate falls to that level or lower.

The arrangement fee is £150 and there is an early redemption penalty of one month's interest. Borrowers may also chose their own fixed-rate term of between three and five years, as well as between 20 and 25 years.

The Woolwich has two new fixed-rate mortgages, one at 10.65 per cent for two years, and the other at 10.55 per cent for five years. Both are available only on an endowment or pension basis.

The two-year scheme carries a £150 application fee, the other one of £195. The redemption charge is three months' interest on both.

Three new schemes from Barclays are all fixed at the same rate of 10.8 per cent for two, three or five years. An application fee £150 is added to the loan on completion, but waived if the customer takes out an endowment, pension or mortgage protection policy through the bank. The redemption penalty on the two and three-year plans is two months' interest: on the five-year mortgage it is five months' interest for the first two years, and three months thereafter.

Cheltenham & Gloucester has launched a mortgage with a three-year fixed-rate of 10.55 per cent. The application fee is £100.

Northern Rock's new mortgage is fixed at 10.25 per cent until at least April 1 1993, or 9.85 per cent for borrowers of 70 per cent, or less, of the value of the property, guaranteed until the same date. The arrangement fee is £200. Borrowers must take out Northern Rock's buildings and contents insurance package, Supercover Special.

The Derbyshire has a fixed-rate mortgage of 10.5 per cent until March 31 1994. The administration fee is £125 and borrowers must also sign up for the buildings and contents package. A new fixed-rate mortgage from the Portman Building Society carries a £100 fee on application, plus a further £250 on completion. The interest rate is fixed at 10.7 per cent until March 31 1997.

BRIEFINGS

☐ Morgan Grenfell Investment Funds has set up the Japan Bullet fund, an offshore fund that will be invested in exactly the same stocks as the existing Morgan Grenfell Japan Small Companies Fund. The latter is available to institutions only. Both will be managed by the same team, based in Tokyo, which invests only in companies where it has met the management. People who use an independent financial adviser during the fixed offer period, February 3 to 8, get a 1 per cent discount. The minimum investment is £1,000, the initial unit price is 100p and the initial and annual fees are 6 per cent and 1.5 per cent respectively.

☐ Anyone who knows that Rome is the capital of Italy could soon be holidaying at the expense of the Norwich & Peterborough Building Society. People who book through N&P's travel arm, Catours, have a one-in-twenty chance of winning a £2,000 discount on their holidays. Customers are asked to identify the Italian capital from a list of three names, and are then batched together in groups of 20. The first correct answer to be drawn from each batch wins the £2,000 discount. In practice, this covers most holidays booked, according to the N&P. Catours is an ABTA member.

☐ Skandia Life has launched a new version of its Lifetime critical illness cover plan, which pays out on death as well as providing all the other benefits available on the original plan. Lifetime and Lifetime Plus both offer cover up to £500,000 on diagnosis of a number of critical illnesses, including HIV/Aids contracted during blood transfusion. The minimum contribution on the new plan is £25 per month, or £250 a year. On the original plan, it is £15 a month, or £150 a year.

☐ A personal equity plan with a buy-back guarantee is now available from Pearl Unit Trusts. The Trustworthy Pep is invested in the Pearl UK Income Trust. The minimum investment is £1,000; minimum additional payments are £250. Charges are restricted to those levied on the underlying income trust: an initial charge of 6 per cent and annual management fee of 1.5 per cent. On June 1, 1992, and every subsequent three years, the level of guarantee will be raised to the current bid value, if higher, but will not be reduced, if lower.

☐ Hinckley and Rugby Building Society has launched a new account for young investors which pays 6.56 per cent net, or 8.75 per cent gross to account holders who complete form R85, which enables them to collect interest tax-free. The account may be opened by savers themselves, or by parents or relatives on their behalf. Withdrawals may not be made by under-sevens without a parent's signature. The minimum deposit is £1.

Guardian Royal cuts payouts

HOLDERS of a 25-year Guardian Royal Exchange endowment policy maturing this month will suffer a 5 per cent reduction in their final payout, against a year ago. Those with a 10-year policy maturing at the same time, will receive 7 per cent less.

The lower returns are the result of a decision to cut all reversionary bonus rates. The announcement follows reductions of terminal bonus rates on December 1, weighted in favour of those with longer-term policies.

GRE said the rates had fallen because inflation and interest rates were lower than previously. A spokesman conceded other companies had made smaller rate reductions, but said maturity values were worked out in different ways by different life offices.

In contrast, General Accident Life has increased terminal bonuses paid on all long-term with-profits life policies, while leaving reversionary bonuses unchanged. The maturity value of a 25-year endowment policy taken out with GA is now 3.4 per cent higher this month than a year ago.

The company said "only a few thousand" policyholders will benefit from this increase, because few policies were sold 25 years ago. A much greater number of people hold GA's maturing 10-year policies, where exit values have fallen by 0.1 per cent.

Commercial Union has added a 6 per cent bonus to all policies taken out before January 1 1977. Maturity payouts for 25-year endowment policies have increased by 6.3 per cent year on year, but have declined by just over 2 per cent for 10-year policies. CU has reduced the return on its unitised with-profits pension policies by 13.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent.

The maturity value of a 25-year policy taken out by a man aged 29 at a £30 monthly premium is currently £65,255 from GA, and £65,596 from CU, compared with £44,093 from GRE. A ten-year policy taken out on the same basis pays £7,024 on maturity from GA and £7,484 from CU, compared with just £5,479 from GRE.

LETTERS

Pinning down the flaw in Chargecard security

From Mr Ian Baird

Sir, Do your readers know that they may be carrying on their person the equivalent of a blank cheque at their expense in favour of BT? On October 7 I reported to BT the loss of my wife's Chargecard which had been in her handbag stolen that day.

You can imagine my surprise on discovering on my last quarter's account that about £240 of Operator Connected calls had been charged to my account, having got there between October 8 and 28 by fraudulent use of the stolen card. BT admits its error and will credit the overcharge.

However, it makes a mockery of security against misuse provided by issuing a separate personal identity number known only to the cardholder. This applies to direct dialled calls. Calls can be made by anyone through an operator merely by quoting the account number embossed on the Chargecard itself.

If a holder does not report the loss of a card to BT (perhaps because unaware of its loss), he is liable for all subsequent calls made by using that card since BT operators will happily allow anyone acquiring the card to make calls. A lost card is thus equivalent to a blank cheque.

BT now advises me that the only way to avoid this risk is to note in some code form the numbers on the card and then destroy the card or leave it in a secure place. This advice should have been offered by BT at the time of issue. Let all BT Chargecard holders beware.

Yours faithfully,
IAN M. BAIRD,
6 Park Lane,
Haddington,
East Lothian.

Electricity shares forfeited in muddle over new address

From Mrs Kathleen Watt

Sir, In these days of the "customer charter" is there any remedy which one may use against the consequences of what appears to have been an error made by a company's registrar.

My husband, son and I all purchased 100 shares in South West Electricity. In September I wrote to the registrars intimating our change of address. In October my son received his first dividend and we waited expectantly. My son then received a call for his second instalment which we paid, then waited for our own calls. Slightly perturbed by now, I wrote to the registrars on or around November 20, enquiring re the dividends and the calls.

On December 20 I personally received a letter stating that as I had voided the contract my holding would be sold elsewhere. I replied immediately in a repeat of my first letter. On December 23 I received a letter in reply to my November query, enclosing the two dividend warrants and stating that our change of address had not been received, and therefore our shareholding would be lost. My husband has not yet had his confirmation of this.

As my son is barely aware of his holding, apart from enjoying the dividend, it seems strange that they should have chosen to change his address but not ours. We realise we shall at some time receive our initial investment but we shall obviously lose our bonus shares and are unlikely to buy again as that would require to be through a third party.

Yours sincerely,
KATHLEEN M. WATT,
21B Abercromby Place,
Edinburgh.

Plastic heirs of the Blackpool landladies

From Sir Herbert Durkin

Sir, As an occasional traveller in Europe, I usually obtain foreign currency by means of cash advance on a credit card as the most convenient (if not necessarily the cheapest) way. Earlier this year, I discovered that there was a considerable exchange advantage in using Access rather than Barclaycard for this purpose.

Alas, Access has now appreciated the discrepancy and adjusted its charging system to be the same as Barclaycard. Thus it seems that competition in this field operates to raise prices to the highest level of one's competitors rather than drive them down to the lowest level.

Obviously Access is applying the Theorem of the Blackpool Landladies. This states that "All Blackpool landladies charge the same rent". The proof is as follows. Assume that X and Y are two Blackpool landladies and that X charges more rent than Y. Hence Y does not charge as much rent as she could, which is absurd. Therefore, all Blackpool landladies charge the same rent.

Yours faithfully,
H. DURKIN,
Northwood,
Middlesex.

From Dr Mary Corbett

Sir, For years I have taken travellers' cheques in French francs when skiing in French resorts, but now French banks (and in September last, French post offices) have taken to charging commission when the cheques are encashed.

Eurocheques seem a bit expensive and I'm damned if I want to pay twice for travellers' cheques. Is there any option your readers can suggest?

Yours faithfully,
MARY CORBETT,
152 Harley Street, W1.

Pep managers unnecessary

From Mr A. C. Bennett

Sir, Your extensive coverage of personal equity plans in this morning's edition (Weekend Money, January 4) prompts me to send you the following information concerning my Pep with Barclayshare, under which I select the investments.

The limits set suggest that this tax "saving" vehicle is intended for the small investor. For the year ended December 31 the result was as follows:

Basic rate tax saved	186.83
Charges	247.96
	-61.13
Taking into account higher rate tax	
Total tax saved	331.23
Charges	247.96
	83.27

Who is the main beneficiary?

This absurdity arises because of the Inland Revenue's clumsy methods. Why must managers be appointed? The system could quite easily be operated through my tax return, leaving the benefit with *me* rather than with the money management industry.

Yours faithfully,
A. COLIN BENNETT,
7 St. Michael At Pleas,
Tombland,
Norwich.

Lloyds luck

From Mr Edward Addison

Sir, I was quite amazed to read (Weekend Money, January 4) how lucky the investor in Lloyds Peps was in 1991 — his £2,400 became £3,833 at the beginning of December 1991.

I invested £7,800 in a Lloyds Pep in June 1989 and lo and behold in June 1991 after two years it became £7,851 — a gain of £51.00.

What price fund managers?

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD N. ADDISON
(Chairman),
The Addison Tool Co.,
Elliot House,
Victoria Road,
NW10.

● Published replies marked with the triangular logo are provided by Maurice Parry-Wingfield, national tax partner at Touche Ross, the accountant, in association with *The Times*.

☐ Letters are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

Shares for the surviving spouse

From Mr Ronald Beasley

Sir, I refer to the reply of Touche Ross to Mr T.W. Morland's letter (Weekend Money letters, December 14) in which it is stated that if shares are transferred between husband and wife *inter vivos* the transferee's gain for capital gain tax purposes is the same as if the transferor had held the shares all along.

Can Touche Ross carry the advice one stage further, to state what the base cost will be for a surviving spouse who inherits shares from the deceased spouse, with whom he/she has been living at the time of death, and free from inheritance tax?

Yours faithfully,
RONALD W. BEASLEY,
Merriethought Cottage,
108 Baring Road,
Cowes, Isle of Wight.

Although no capital gain arises on death, even if the shares have appreciated since acquisition, the surviving spouse is deemed to have acquired the shares at market value at the date of death. Since inheritance tax does not bite either where the shares are left to the surviving spouse, this is one of the few "black holes" in the tax system.

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c:						
Typical	2.63	2.66	2.12	none/none	7 day	——
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	7.13	7.13	5.70	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-626 1567
"	7.50	7.50	6.00	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-626 1567
Lloyds	6.38	6.38	5.10	2,500-no max	1 mth	Local Brnch
"	6.69	6.69	5.44	2,500-no max	6 mth	Local Brnch
Midland	6.70	6.70	5.36	10,000-no max	1 mth	0742 528655
" " "	6.70	6.70	5.36	10,000-no max	3 mth	0742 528655
NatWest	6.66	6.66	5.33	10,000-24,000	1 mth	071-726 1000
" " "	6.66	6.66	5.33	10,000-24,000	6 mth	071-726 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland MMC	6.48	6.68	5.34	2,500‡	none	031-442 7777
Barclays Prime a/c	5.78	5.91	4.73	2,500‡	none	0684 252889
Co-operative Ultra	1.90	1.90	1.52	1,000‡	none	071 626 6543
Girobank	5.25	5.25	4.20	1,000‡	none	051 966 2076
Lloyds HICA	1.88	1.89	1.51	1,000‡	none	0272 493372
Midland HICA	5.35	5.42	4.34	2,000‡	none	0742 528655
NatWest Special Reserve	5.06	5.16	4.13	500‡	none	071-374 3374
Royal Bank of Scot Prem A/c	6.06	6.21	4.97	2,500	none	031-556 8555
TSB Bank HICA	4.69	4.69	3.75	2,000‡	none	071-600 6000
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Share A/c	5.25	5.25	4.20	1 min	none	——
Best buy — largest socs:						
Portman	7.50	7.50	6.00	500 min	inst	——
Cheltenham & Gl	8.36	8.83	6.69	2,500 min	Postal	——
Northern Rock	7.69	7.69	6.15	10,000 min	30 day	——
Skipton	8.76	8.76	7.01	2,500 min	90 day	——
Bristol & West	9.19	9.19	7.35	25,000 min	1 year	——
Best buy — all socs:						
Southdown	7.69	7.69	6.15	1 min	inst	——
Norwich & Pthr	8.48	8.48	6.78	1,000 min	Postal	——
Nottingham	7.88	7.88	6.30	10,000 min	30 day	——
Lancastrian	9.00	9.00	7.20	10,000 min	90 day	——
Bristol & West	9.19	9.19	7.35	25,000 min	1 year	——
Cash/Cheque Accounts:						
Halifax Card Cash	2.25	2.26	1.81	50 min		Rates rise
Alliance & Leic Cash Plus	3.00	3.00	2.25	25 min		with larger
Nationwide Anglia Flex	1.43	1.43	1.14	1 min		balances
NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c†	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c	9.50	7.13	5.70	5-25,000	1 mth	041-649-4555
Income Bond*	10.25	7.69	6.15	2,000-25,000	3 mth	0253 66151
Deposit Bond*☐	10.25	7.69	6.15	-	3 mth	041-649-4555
35th Issue Cert†	8.50	8.50	8.50	25-10,000	8 day	091-386 4900
Yearly Plan†	8.50	8.50	8.50	20-200/mth	14 day	091-386 4900
Children's Bond	11.84	11.84	11.84			
Gen Ext Relief	5.01	5.01	5.01			
Capital Bond	11.50	8.62	6.90	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-649-4555
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
Gen Portfolio	9.30	9.30	7.91	50,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from
Gen Portfolio	9.10	9.10	7.74	50,000 min	2 yrs	Chase de
Prosperity	9.20	9.20	7.82	25,000 min	3 yrs	Vere
Liberty Life	9.10	9.10	7.74	25,000 min	4 yrs	071 404 5766
Prosperity	9.10	9.10	7.74	5,000 min	5 yrs	for details

Compiled by Chase de Vere Moneyline - call 071 404 5766 for further details

‡2.5% for balances below £500. First £70 of interest tax free, instant access for withdrawals of £100 or less. * Additional bonuses up to £10,000 for increasing re-investing proceeds of existing matured certificates. †Tax free. *Interest taxable paid gross. ‡Higher rates for larger sums. ☐ No longer on sale.

		Holiday rates	£ buys
RPI (Nov 90-91)	+4.3%	Spanish Pesetas:	175.58
Bank Base Rate	10.5%	French Francs:	9.41
Personal Loan	24%	Greek Drachms:	329.08
Credit Card	19.8-32%	Italian Lira:	2095.00

Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 27).

Share No	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Weekly Total
1	+8	+5	+7	+4	+3		
2	+7	+3	+2	+1	+4		
3	+9	+5	+3	+2	+4		
4	+7	+6	+6	+5	+4		
5	+8	+5	+4	+3	+5		
6	+6	+5	+3	+2	+3		
7	+4	+2	+3	+6	+7		
8	+9	+5	+7	+4	+4		
9	+7	+5	+4	+3	+5		
10	+5	+3	+2	+7	+7		
11	+5	+4	+3	+7	+7		
12	+7	+4	+4	+2	+6		
13	+4	+4	+3	+6	+7		
14	+6	+5	+3	+2	+4		
15	+9	+6	+7	+3	+5		
16	+7	+4	+3	+2	+4		
17	+9	+6	+6	+4	+3		
18	+8	+6	+4	+1	+6		
19	+5	+4	+3	+3	+2		
20	+7	+8	+7	+3	+5		
21	+7	+5	+5	+1	+5		
22	+6	+5	+1	+2	+3		
23	+6	+3	+4	+6	+9		
24	+6	+3	+2	+1	+3		
25	+8	+6	+6	+3	+5		
26	+9	+4	+3	+2	+5		
27	+6	+4	+4	+6	+6		
28	+6	+4	+2	+3	+2		
29	+8	+5	+8	+5	+4		
30	+7	+4	+2	+2	+2		
31	+8	+5	+4	+3	+6		
32	+7	+3	+2	+3	+4		
33	+4	+2	+3	+5	+8		
34	+8	+5	+6	+2	+4		
35	+7	+6	+8	+4	+4		
36	+5	+3	+2	+5	+6		
37	+6	+4	+1	+1	+3		
38	+5	+3	+4	+7	+7		
39	+9	+6	+5	+2	+5		
40	+4	+2	+2	+5	+6		
41	+7	+7	+7	+4	+3		
42	+8	+6	+5	+2	+5		
43	+5	+3	+3	+5	+6		
44	+6	+3	+1	+2	+3		

Portfolio
PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Br Vita	Industrial	
2	Northumbrian	Water	
3	LASMO	Oils, Gas	
4	Dunhill	Drapery,Strs	
5	Hutch Whamp	Industrial	
6	Persimmon	Building,Rds	
7	Coats Viyella	Drapery,Strs	
8	Andrews Sykes	Industrial	
9	Rotork	Industrial	
10	Reckitt Colm	Industrial	
11	Westpac	Banks,Disc	
12	Welsh Water	Water	
13	Utd Biscuits	Foods	
14	Rentokil	Chems,Plas	
15	Wolvrhmptn D	Breweries	
16	Br Polythene	Industrial	
17	App Holo	Electrical	
18	Macarthy	Industrial	
19	Delta	Electrical	
20	Smart (J)	Building,Rds	
21	Charter Cons	Industrial	
22	Aus New Z	Banks,Disc	
23	HTV Group	Leisure	
24	UniChem	Industrial	
25	Dawson	Textiles	
26	Smurfit (Jeff)	Paper,Print	
27	Ultramar	Oils, Gas	
28	Dairy Farm Intl	Foods	
29	Steetley	Building,Rds	
30	Wilkes (James)	Industrial	
31	Nat Aust Bk	Banks,Disc	
32	Reliance Sec	Industrial	
33	Broken Hill	Industrial	
34	Attwoods	Building,Rds	
35	Plaxton Group	Motors,Air	
36	HSBC	Banks,Disc	
37	Campari	Leisure	
38	Highland Dist	Breweries	
39	Ulster TV	Leisure	
40	THORN EMI	Electrical	
41	Wyevale	Drapery,Strs	
42	Bass	Breweries	
43	BOC	Industrial	
44	CRH	Building,Rds	

Total -

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
311	211	Abbey Ntl	279½	− 2½	9.5	4.5	9.1
183	126	Allied Irish	172	+ 2	...	5.4	12.6
60	23	Ansbacher (H)	31	...	1.5	6.5	...
202	121	Aus New Z	199 †	+ 3	...	4.5	∞
2631	1218	Bankamerica	2137 †	+75	...	...	...
179½	115½	Bk of Ireland	156	+ 1	...	6.8	25.5
1950	1900	Bk Leumi Isl	1900 #	...	...	...	...
350	340	Bk Leumi UK	340	...	16.0	6.3	...
126	91	Bank Scotland	111	− 2	...	5.1	24.2
489	327	Barclays	357	− 6	21.1	7.9	23.6
12	3	Benchmark	5	...	...	...	19.9
270	195	Brown Shipley	195	− 5	8.0	5.5	...

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
44	2¾	NSM	3¾	...	0.5	...	...
177	112	Newman Tonks	152	+ 1	9.3	8.2	11.6
304	187	Persimmon	228	+ 2	...	5.0	11.3
55	16	Phoenix Timber	22	...	0.5	...	...
1200	875	Pochins	1150	...	24.0	2.8	8.5
201	142	Prowting	142	− 1	5.0	4.7	29.2
46	19	Quiligotti	19	− 4	1.5	10.7	6.5
749	491	RMC Gp	527	−14	19.3	4.9	12.2
150	92	Raine Ind	102	− ½	6.0	7.8	9.4
76	50	Ransom	65	+ 1	0.1	0.2	...
668	416	Redland	436	− 4	...	7.6	12.6
79	63	[illegible]	63	...	4.3	9.1	6.7
205	135	Rugby Group	168	− 6	6.4	5.1	12.4
62	23	Sandell	31	...	1.7	...	...
68	38	Severfield-Reeve	47	...	3.0	8.5	6.7
98	70	Sharpe & Fisher	72	...	4.0	7.4	69.8
161	90	Sheffield Insul	80	− 5	5.4	9.0	7.6
110	61	Sherriff Hldgs	62	...	5.1	...	5.5
148	75	Shorco	75	...	5.2	9.2	7.9
230	161	Smart (J)	225	+ 1	7.9	4.7	7.7
22	13½	Stanmore	14	...	...	2.9	29.0
424	252	Steetley	352	+ 1	14.0	5.3	18.2
283	95	Tarmac	107	− 7	14.2	14.0	12.1
175	106	Tay Homes	161	...	5.3	4.4	6.4
289	105	Taylor Woodrow	117	− 7	9.5	10.8	11.0
725	508	Tilbury Dougls	520	...	33.0	8.5	7.7
41	28	[illegible]	31	− 2	0.4	1.7	∞
251	175	Travis Perkins	176	...	8.0	6.1	22.6
62	39	Try Group	47	...	6.0	17.0	5.1
33	22	Tudor	33	...	2.7	...	9.3
150	16	Turriff	27	...	4.2	20.9	...
10	3	Venture Plant	7½	+ 1½	...	...	...
123	66	Vibroplant	99	...	3.6	4.8	13.8
208	88	Ward Group	88	− 1	7.2	...	3.9
100	43	Ward Hldgs	43	...	2.6	8.1	9.1
428	368	Watts Blake	405	...	9.3	3.1	15.6
44	18	Wescol	18	...	...	...	...
190	97	Westbury	99	...	...	12.1	...
52	9	West Scaffold	9	...	...	...	...
62	6	Wiggins	11	...	...	...	...
447	335½	Wilson Bowden	368	+ 4	...	3.0	12.6
211	159	Wilson (C)	160	+ 1	3.7	3.1	14.4
229	111	Wimpey G	117	− 5	10.5	12.0	17.8
78	43	YRM	68	...	5.0	9.8	6.4

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
193	120	Allied Colloids	188	− 1	3.5	2.5	18.0
475	301	Amersham	460	− 3	11.8	3.4	23.1
41¼	28½	Anglo Utd	30 †	...	...	7.1	...
247	148	BTP	235	...	8.4	4.8	14.0
£100¾	£72½	Bayer DM50	£100	...	...	4.6	...
224	129	Blagden	202	...	9.5	6.3	11.2
160¼	116	Brent Chems	131 †	...	...	7.5	14.4
128	42	Caird Gp	86	...	...	3.7	...
171	94	Canning (W)	140	− 3	7.2	6.9	16.8
203	143	Croda	144	...	11.0	...	11.4
218	165	Ellis & Everard	194	− 3	7.0	4.8	12.2
18	10	EuroColour	11	...	0.6	7.9	37.8
124	43	Evode	53	− 1	6.4	16.2	9.1

Widespread profit-taking

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 30. Dealings ended yesterday. §Contango day January 13. Settlement day January 20. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio
PLATINUM

WEEKLY DIVIDEND
£4,000

Claims required for +226 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

Source: Firstat

◆ USM; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; † Ex rights issue; ‡ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; ∞ Figures or report awaited; ... No significant data.

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
80 Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth BH8 8AL. 0345 717373				
Mastertrust	87.64	93.73	+ 0.47	2.73
International	61.63	65.56	+ 0.96	1.34
Dividend Gth	46.05	48.98	+ 0.20	6.12
Global Gth Ser	52.96	56.34	+ 0.20	3.09
Ethical Growth	53.24	56.63	- 0.48	2.75
High Inc Equity	124.00	131.90†	- 0.60	6.44
Worldwide Bond	220.20	233.40†	+ 4.60	6.43
Gilts Fixed Int	118.10	125.30	+ 1.10	9.18
ABTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
10 Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ. 0224 633070. Dealing: 0800 833580 30 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7QQ. 071 374 0801				
Amer Inc Gth	30.06	31.87	+ 0.50	2.49
European	66.94	71.16	+ 2.03	0.32
European Inc	70.61	74.49†	+ 2.34	1.64
Exempt	774.10	800.10†	+ 3.80	5.10
Extra Inc	35.67	38.81†	- 0.44	6.38
F East Emerg Ec	49.04	52.49	+ 2.23	1.22
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS				
Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon, SN1 1EL. 0793 514514. Dealing: 0793 610366				
High Inc	308.60	325.60	- 8.50	6.26
Equity Inc	173.00	184.20†	- 3.10	5.58
High Yield	189.80	202.10	- 3.70	5.74
Balanced	532.20	566.70†	- 1.70	3.70
American Inc	34.67	36.92	+ 0.37	3.95
Wld Asset Val	30.46	32.43	+ 0.23	1.54
Japan	132.10	139.70†	- 1.10	0.01
Secs of Am	351.40	372.50†	+ 11.20	0.26
BL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
PO Box 128, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4PN. 081 663 3030				

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Income Growth	305.40	324.90	- 2.50	5.69
-do- Acc	380.70	405.10	- 3.20	5.69
Master Portfolio	8221.0	8635.0†	+ 88.00	2.95
-do- Acc	9225.0	9689.0	+ 99.00	2.95
Special Sits	67.12	71.41†	+ 0.25	2.92
-do- Acc	76.73	81.63	+ 0.28	2.92
Exempt Fund				
High Yield	957.40	987.10	- 6.70	6.30
-do- Acc	1059.0	1092.0	- 8.00	6.30
CAPEL (JAMES) UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
3 Harbour Exchange Square, London E14 9GJ. 071 955 5050. Dealing: 071 955 5055				
American Index	153.30	163.60	+ 4.30	1.94
Capital	441.30	470.90	- 0.20	3.99
European Index	112.80	120.30	+ 3.60	2.06
Euro Gth	72.37	77.23†	+ 3.02	1.92
Far East Growth	64.75	69.10†	+ 1.89	0.96
Global Bond	19.96	21.29†	+ 0.42	6.46
Gold General	62.77	66.96	+ 5.70	3.62
Hong Kong	41.28	44.05	+ 1.81	2.58
Income	406.00	433.20	- 1.80	6.11
Intl Growth	61.39	65.51	+ 1.47	1.35
Japan Growth	198.90	212.20	- 0.20	...
Japan Smllr Cos	27.77	29.63	+ 0.24	...
Japan Index	59.28	63.26	- 1.35	0.36
Nth American	317.40	338.70	+ 8.70	1.61
S pore Mly Gth	33.24	35.47	+ 0.67	...
Tiger Index	94.17	100.50	+ 5.96	1.20
Trixie Index	86.49	92.30	+ 0.14	4.71
UK Index	103.60	110.50†	- 0.40	4.29
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
16 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2R 7AN. 071 606 0708				
American P folio	59.35	63.48	+ 1.49	1.74
European P folio	59.07	62.99	+ 2.78	1.29

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
EQUITY & LAW				
St George's Hse, Corporation St, Coventry CV1 1QD. 0203 553231				
UK Growth Acc	253.60	269.80	- 1.40	4.07
-do- Inc	188.00	200.00	- 1.00	4.07
Higher Inc Acc	421.10	448.00	- 5.00	6.05
-do- Inc	272.60	290.00	- 3.30	6.05
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	145.20	152.90	+ 0.90	8.51
-do- Inc	83.67	88.08	+ 0.57	8.51
Nth America	205.70	218.90	+ 18.80	...
Far East	216.80	230.70	+ 2.10	0.45
Europe	194.50	207.00	+ 6.40	0.68
General Inc	350.40	372.80	+ 1.50	3.90
-do- Acc	369.70	393.30	+ 1.50	3.90
Brit Excel	51.65	54.95	- 0.37	4.08
Brit Prdents Inc	52.39	55.74	- 0.52	6.63
Brit Prdnds Acc	63.33	67.38	- 0.63	6.63
Global Opps	56.84	60.47	+ 1.67	0.46
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD				
Oakhill House, 130 Tonbridge Rd, Tonbridge TN11 9DZ. 0800 414181				
America	177.00	187.00	+ 6.70	...
Cash Unit Tst	135.57	135.57†	+ 0.20	10.55
European Inc	95.05	101.40	+ 3.29	...
FOREIGN & COLONIAL				
8th Floor, Exchange Hse, Primrose St, London EC2A 2NY. 071 628 8000				
European Inc	79.21	83.93	+ 2.31	1.56
Far Eastern	108.40	115.70	+ 1.70	...
Overs Income	70.81	75.44†	+ 1.79	2.73
UK Growth	66.01	70.60†	+ 0.14	1.53
UK Income	85.58	91.53	- 1.01	6.58
US Smaller Cos	149.00	159.40	+ 10.40	...
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT				

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Guardhill	349.60	373.50	+ 1.40	3.20
Income Trust	85.86	91.73†	- 0.82	6.72
International	120.80	129.00	+ 2.90	0.26
Managed	99.03	105.80†	+ 0.90	2.46
Nth American	186.50	199.20	+ 6.70	0.63
Pacific	279.90	299.00	+ 2.40	...
Prop Shares	183.10	195.60	- 2.80	5.24
Small Cos	213.60	228.20	- 1.20	3.05
European	305.00	325.80†	+ 8.30	0.72
HALIFAX STANDARD TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
PO Box 600, Edinburgh EH15 1EW. 0800 838868				
Global Adv Inc	28.82	30.55	+ 0.21	2.43
-do- Acc	29.47	31.24	+ 0.21	2.43
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex. Enquiries: 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 690390				
Amer Equity Inc	51.11	54.23	+ 1.31	2.53
Canadian	47.93	51.34	+ 1.44	0.19
Equity Income	89.63	95.35	- 0.54	6.07
European	115.70	122.50	+ 4.30	1.10
High Income	57.19	60.84	- 1.02	7.45
Intl Situation	58.88	62.97	+ 2.83	...
Japan Far East	86.38	91.65	+ 2.11	...
North American	79.79	84.66†	+ 4.43	0.37
Scandinavian	94.55	100.10	+ 3.98	0.41
Smaller Cos	24.81	26.39	- 0.42	2.65
UK New Gentn	33.92	36.09	- 0.09	2.99
HENDERSON				
PO Box 2003, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1XT. Enquiries: 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 690370				
Amer Smaller	67.88	73.02	+ 5.14	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
35 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2AF. Enquiries 061 236 5685. Dealing 061 236 5362				
Capability Trusts				
American Gen	95.90	102.03	+ 3.67	0.37
-do- Acc	101.95	108.46	+ 3.90	0.37
European	57.18	60.63	+ 1.96	1.58
-do- Acc	58.87	62.43	+ 2.03	1.58
Far East Gen	45.92	48.86	- 0.05	...
-do- Acc	45.92	48.86	- 0.05	...
Glenfriars	211.30	224.80	+ 6.80	2.33
-do- Acc	230.70	245.50	+ 7.40	2.33
Growth	300.80	321.80	+ 0.40	2.87
-do- Acc	499.10	533.80	+ 0.50	2.87

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Walton St, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21 7QW. 0296 431480				
Pelican	92.90	97.79	- 1.15	5.53
High Income	93.72	98.65	- 1.11	7.23
Tst of Inv Tsts	107.45	113.11	+ 0.13	3.31
Special Sits	84.57	89.02	- 1.50	4.66
North American	81.30	85.58	+ 4.30	0.82
Far Eastern	163.40	172.00	+ 2.48	1.18
Intl Growth	69.98	73.66	+ 1.19	2.29
European	55.30	58.21	+ 0.89	1.94
Smaller Cos	54.11	56.96†	- 0.59	3.49

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Japan Gth	59.95	64.11	- 0.77	...
Pacific Inc	90.30	96.57	+ 0.76	2.72
Pacific Strategy	62.17	66.49	+ 0.74	0.57
UK Prog Inc	62.22	66.54	- 0.78	8.15
Gt British Cos	42.40	45.34	- 0.49	2.84
UK Small Cos	36.73	39.28	- 0.75	2.75
GRE UNIT MANAGERS				
36 Harbour Exchange Sq, London E14 9GE. 071 538 9668				
Cash	121.40	121.40	+ 0.10	8.71
Gilt Fixed	112.40	119.30	+ 1.10	7.90
Growth Equity	244.30	260.90	+ 1.10	3.42

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Income Trusts				
Cash Acc*	63.79	64.10†	+ 0.10	10.84
Extra Income	42.74	45.47†	- 0.55	7.28
Gilt Yield	109.50	115.50†	+ 0.60	9.08
Global Income	153.10	162.90	+ 2.50	4.91
High Yield	100.70	107.10†	- 1.20	7.46
Smllr Cos Div	36.93	39.29	- 0.50	7.13
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	71.26	75.81	+ 3.26	0.32
North American	56.61	60.22†	+ 1.67	1.38
European	109.10	116.10†	+ 3.30	0.79
Euro Special	69.93	74.39	+ 2.35	1.33
Fund of Inv Tsts	25.97	27.63	- 0.07	2.75

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2ES. 031 229 5252				
Emerg Mkts	48.86	52.25	+ 2.68	1.44
Far East (Pacific)	90.53	96.10	+ 2.33	0.83
Income Growth	59.71	63.38	- 0.10	5.00
European	54.74	58.10	+ 1.69	1.07
Nth American	39.58	42.01	+ 1.09	0.63
UK Growth	56.63	60.11	+ 0.51	2.34
Intl Growth	69.16	73.41	+ 2.58	1.68
Charities	88.04	93.46	- 0.17	5.80
High Yield	43.39	46.06†	- 0.49	7.92
Intl Income	47.39	50.30†	+ 1.12	6.61
Japan	36.69	38.94	- 0.13	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Intl 25 Acc	54.21	57.67	- 0.10	2.86
UK Income	46.80	49.79†	- 0.28	4.95
UK Smllr Co Acc	51.31	54.58	+ 0.27	2.45
New Europe Acc	52.35	55.68	+ 1.83	1.43
PERPETUAL UNIT TRUST				
48 Hart Street, Henley on Thames. 0491 576868				
Asian Smllr Mkt	46.90	50.17	+ 2.24	1.16
PEP Gth Inc	67.35	72.04	+ 0.08	2.48
Intl Gth	347.69	371.87	+ 9.18	1.08
Income	212.18	226.94	- 3.11	5.65

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Gth Acc	20.89	22.36	- 0.03	4.30
Intl Growth Acc	22.25	23.81	+ 0.53	1.14
Global Inc Acc	23.11	24.73†	+ 0.42	5.75
Market Ldrs Acc	20.95	22.42	- 0.10	4.74
SG TOUCHE REMNANT				
Mermaid Hse, 2 Puddle Dock, London EC4V 3AT. 071 248 1250				
American Gth	60.67	64.88	+ 3.76	...
Euro Spec Sits	34.98	37.19	+ 0.75	...
-do- Acc	36.51	38.82	+ 0.79	...
Far East Opps	19.12	20.59†	+ 0.87	...
-do- Acc	19.52	21.02	+ 0.90	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
1 White Oak Square, Swanley BR8 7AG. 0705 388046				
Stockmarket Fd	52.95	56.32	- 0.30	3.30

Source: Finstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data.

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

Abbey Nat	952	Courtaulds	995	MB Cardn	823	Sainsbury	832
Alld-Lyons	6,300	Enterpr Oil	1,200	MEPC	852	Scot & New	757
Anglian W	323	Eurotnnl U	1,000	Marks Spr	1,900	Scot Power	7,500
Argyll Gp	4,800	Fisons	6,200	Midlnd Bk	1,600	Sears	4,000
Arjo Wiggn	241	Forte	1,000	NatWst Bk	3,400	Svrn Trent	1,700
AB Foods	667	GRE	3,800	Nat Power	2,700	Shell Trans	6,900
BAA	789	GUS A	434	Nth Wst W	1,300	SmKl Bch	2,100
BAT Inds	2,800	Gen Acc	774	Nthrn Fds	631	Smith Nph	9,900
BET	845	Gen Elec	3,400	P & O	1,400	Smith (WH)	376
BOC	895	Glaxo	6,400	Pearson	359	Sun Allnce	686
BP	6,500	Grand Met	4,800	Pilkington	989	TSB	4,200
BTR	3,400	Guinness	3,700	PowerGen	2,900	Tarmac	1,600
Bk of Scot	773	Hanson	10,000	Prudential	2,700	Tate & Lyle	1,200
Barclays	2,600	Hawkr Sid	13	RMC	116	Tesco	3,000
Bass	1,100	Hillsdown	2,000	RTZ	1,600	Thames W	1,000
Blue Circle	1,100	ICI	1,000	Rank Org	509	Thrn EMI	1,000
Boots	1,500	Inchcape	524	Reckitt Col	491	Tomkins	163
Brit Aero	376	Kingfisher	1,700	Redland	1,000	Traf House	2,700
Brit Airwys	8,800	LASMO	4,000	Reed Intl	1,200	Unilever	1,200
Brit Gas	5,100	Ladbroke	976	Rentokil	86	Utd Bisc	4,000
Brit Steel	7,500	Land Secs	1,300	Reuters	420	Vodafone	1,900
Brit Tele	10,000	Laporte	737	Rolls Royce	3,900	Wellcome	566
Cable Wire	2,500	Legal & Gn	391	Rothmans	393	Whitbd 'A'	1,100
Cadbury	2,600	Lloyds Bk	1,100	Royal Ins	551	Wlms Hld	2,000
Cm Union	1,100	Lonrho	2,600	Ryl Bk Scot	558	Willis Crrn	2,700

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)
Dow Jones .... 3186.27 (-23.26)
S&P Composite .... 413.37 (-4.24)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Av'ge 22381.90 (-731.74)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ...... 4348.92 (+14.38)

FT-SE Euro 100 1105.40 (+5.38)

Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency .... 116.2 (+0.6)

Sydney: AO .... 1668.0 (+6.0)

Frankfurt: DAX 1615.71 (+25.95)

Brussels:
General .... 5537.81 (+23.51)

Paris: CAC .... 494.37 (+8.78)

Zurich: SKA Gen .... 465.7 (+3.6)

London:
FT A All-Share .. 1182.19 (-8.99)
FT 500 .... 1332.58 (-9.49)
FT Gold Mines .... 160.6 (+9.4)
FT Fixed interest ... 99.57 (+1.59)
FT Govt Secs .... 87.42 (+0.04)
Bargains 32925
SEAQ Volume 589.7m
USM (Datastrm) . 138.88 (-0.07)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
January 6	January 17	April 2	April 13

Call options were taken out on 10/1/92: Aitken Hume, Amstrad, ASDA Group, Aviva Petroleum, Barratt Devs, Kunick, Firstland Oil & Gas, Lep, YJ Lovell, Midland & Scottish, Monument Oil & Gas, Thames TV, Tarmac. **Puts:** B Elliott, Medeva, G Wimpey.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Lyon	600	70	95	99	3	13	24
(*652)	650	25	62	68	18	30	47
ASDA	30	3	5	8	3½	6½	8
(*29)	34	1½	4	-	6½	9	-
Bass	1000	45	85	103	4	19	29
(*1038)	1050	12	53	78	22	39	45
Boots	420	8	28	36	6	16	22
(*422)	460	1	9	17	39	40	45
Br Airways	220	12	25	30	2½	8	14
(*229)	240	3½	13	20	13	17	23
BP	280	11	18	24	5	11½	16
(*281)	300	2½	9	15	18	24	26
Br Steel	60	8	10	12	1	3	4½
(*65)	70	2	5½	7	5	7½	9½
C & W	550	49	69	81	3	12	21
(*590)	600	10	37	50	20	28	40
CU	460	18	28	38	5	22	27
(*465)	500	4	10	22	35	48	50
Courtauld	500	15	38	46	7	19	25
(*499)	550	2	16	24	46	47	51
GKN	280	15	25	30	3	16	23
(*284)	300	4	14	19	16	28	31
Grnd Met	850	68	96	121	2	12	20
(*921)	900	25	60	89	10	26	37
ICI	1150	37	63	90	9	52	59
(*1165)	1200	11	39	67	34	75	80
Kingfshr	460	14	33	38	9	20	25
(*467)	500	1	14	22	38	42	47
Ladbroke	211	12	-	-	4½	-	-
(*219)	230	3	10½	-	14	23	-
Land Sec	420	32	48	53	1½	6	14
(*448)	460	4½	22	28	14	22	33
M & S	260	17	26½	32	2	6½	11
(*272)	280	5	14	20	9	15	20
Sainsbury	320	18	-	-	3	-	-
(*342)	356	2½	-	-	16	-	-
Shell	460	18	26	39	4½	19	22
(*473)	500	3	10	21	31	46	47
Smkl Bch	900	55	87	110	4	25	34
(*936)	950	18	58	83	22	47	55
Storehse	100	7	12	14	3½	8	11
(*104)	110	1½	6	9	9	14	16
Trafalgar	130	9	17	20	5	13	18
(*129)	140	4	13	16	12	18	25
Ultramar	260	20	29	-	3½	16	-
(*273)	280	6	17	-	11	26	-
Unilever	850	43	67	84	3	30	26
(*886)	900	11	37	55	23	42	49
Utd Bisc	390	29	40	46	2	9	14
(*415)	420	6	21	27	11	24	27

January 10, 1992 Tot 24636 Call: 13933 Put: 10703 FT-SE Call: 2304 Put: 2548
*Underlying security price.

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAA	500	60	76	82	2½	9	13
(*547)	550	24	41	50	17	24	32
BAT Ind	600	42	52	58	9	21	30
(*623)	650	10	27	32	33	43	54
BTR	390	25	33	42	5½	15	19
(*404)	420	8	17	25	22	32	34
Br Aero	300	30	34	37	6	19	24
(*318)	330	12	18	24	20	37	40
Br Telcm	330	9	21	27	13	17	22
(*328)	360	2½	10	13	37	38	40
Cadbury	420	36	47	57	8	18	22
(*439)	460	13	26	38	27	40	42
Guinness	525	26	39	-	10	20	-
(*532)	550	12	26	38	32	36	37
GEC	180	12½	19	22	2½	5	8½
(*187)	200	3	8½	10½	13	15	19
Hanson	180	23½	30	31½	1½	3	5
(*199)	200	7½	16	19	6	9	11½
LASMO	220	31	32	39	4	13	16
(*238)	240	14	24	31	11	23	26
Lucas	100	10	13	16	5	8	9½
(*102)	110	4½	7½	11	11	11	15
P & O	420	28	38	43	9½	28	33
(*421)	460	9	17	27	35	52	55
Pilkingtn	130	11	19	22	5	10	14
(*132)	140	6½	14	14	11	15	20
Prudential	220	18	21	26	4	10½	13
(*228)	240	6½	11	17	14	21	23
Racal Elc	51	3	-	-	3	-	-
(*51)	60	½	-	-	10	-	-
RTZ	460	38	47	57	6	17	21
(*485)	500	14	23	36	22	38	40
Scot New	390	44	57	64	2½	7	12
(*425)	420	20	37	44	9	16	23
Tesco	230	7½	14	19	9½	16	18
(*217)	240	2	7	12	25	26	29
Thames W	330	23	35	37	6	9	15
(*342)	350	9	-	-	14	-	-
Vodafone	330	31	45	50	4	10	14
(*357)	360	13	27	33	16	22	28

FT-SE INDEX (*2477)

	2350	2400	2450	2500	2550	2600
Calls						
Jan	161	118	76	47	22	10
Feb	190	148	107	76	48	32
Mar	215	175	134	104	77	57
Apr	240	202	165	140	103	80
Puts						
Jan	10	16	26	45	77	117
Feb	22	31	47	66	92	117
Mar	32	45	58	79	108	71
Apr	40	57	72	85	107	140

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Abby Nat	280	12	21	25	14	18	20
(*280)	300	5	13	16	29	32	33
Amstrad	25	5½	7½	9	3½	5	6
(*27)	30	3½	5	7½	6½	8	9½
Barclays	360	20	25	29	23	26	33
(*357)	390	6½	13	18	45	47	50
Blue Circ	220	16	22	27	13	21	27
(*219)	240	8	13	18	25	34	38
Br Gas	240	12	17	20	11	18	19
(*240)	260	5½	9	12	25	30	31
Dixons	200	18	28	33	7	12	15
(*211)	220	9	18	22	17	21	25
Eurotnl	420	47	68	80	17	27	32
(*452)	460	27	47	-	40	50	-
Forte	220	20	25	28	5	10½	14
(*230)	240	8½	14	18	15	21	24
Glaxo	900	67	110	133	37	50	62
(*911)	950	43	78	106	60	82	87
Hawker	750	15	30	-	30	34	-
(*754)	800	4	10	-	-	-	-
Hillsdwn	160	10	15	18	12	18	21
(*153)	177	6	-	-	26	-	-
Lonrho	160	21	29	33	11	16	17
(*176)	180	12	18	23	23	28	31
Midland	200	21	32	35	9½	12	17
(*208)	220	13	21	25	20	24	27
Reuter	1000	82	118	140	27	45	52
(*1046)	1050	49	90	110	50	65	75
R-Royce	120	17	18	20	4	6	7
(*132)	130	9½	12	15	8	11	12
Sears	90	9	13	14	3½	6½	8
(*96)	100	5	7	9	9	13	14
Thrn Emi	750	46	70	72	18	26	36
(*769)	800	20	42	45	44	51	61
TSB	110	10	13	16	5	7	8
(*117)	120	5	8½	10	10	13	14
Vaal Reefs	60	11	14½	14½	2½	4	5½
(*69)	70	4	8½	10	6½	9	11
Wellcome	1000	100	136	163	32	46	55
(*1034)	1050	60	107	137	53	67	74
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Fisons	330	19	32	43	4	16	19
(*346)	360	4	19	29	21	31	33
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Eastrn Elc	230	5	13	-	18	20	-
(*220)	250	1½	6½	-	38	38	-
	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Nat Pwr	130	10	15	18	6	7½	11
(*134)	140	5	10	12	11	13	17
Scot Pwr	100	6	11	12	5	7	9½
(*105)	110	3	6	8	11	12½	15½

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 34049	Mar 92	2565.0	2575.0	2488.0	2503.0	8138
	Jun 92	2557.0	2557.0	2553.0	2537.0	7
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 162032	Mar 92	89.62	89.65	89.43	89.44	54226
	Jun 92	89.92	89.95	89.74	89.78	16546
	Sep 92	90.25	90.26	90.04	90.05	4582
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 34825	Mar 92	95.96	95.97	95.84	95.84	3009
	Jun 92	95.85	95.85	95.65	95.64	1556
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 180681	Mar 92	90.71	90.77	90.60	90.62	37776
	Jun 92	91.12	91.22	91.01	91.03	33128
US Treasury Bond Previous open interest: 3233	Mar 92	104-25	104-28	103-29	104-04	1751
	Jun 92				103-02	0
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 56227	Mar 92	97-26	97-28	96-19	96-21	49118
	Jun 92	97-22	97-22	97-22	96-27	8
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 92	103.10	103.20	103.05	103.05	1057
	Jun 92	102.96	102.96	102.96	102.90	10
German Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 110612	Mar 92	88.21	88.39	88.02	88.10	86474
	Jun 92	88.71	88.75	88.58	88.58	292
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 5579	Mar 92	90.11	90.31	89.94	89.96	1871
	Jun 92	90.71	90.81	90.50	90.52	744
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 23420	Mar 92	92.36	92.41	92.16	92.19	6924
	Jun 92	92.68	92.70	92.50	92.50	1748
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 16921	Mar 92	98.11	98.35	98.03	98.12	7113
	Jun 92	98.28	98.28	98.28	98.22	25

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 90.4 (day's range 90.3-90.7).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Jan 10	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.1949-3.2023	3.1978-3.2023	⅛-¼pr	⅜-¼pr
Brussels	58.31-58.62	58.35-58.58	7-2pr	20-14pr
Copenhagen	10.9974-11.0491	10.9974-11.0246	⅜-¼pr	2¼-1¾pr
Dublin	1.0577-1.0686	1.0676-1.0686	4pr-2ds	8pr-1ds
Frankfurt	2.8333-2.8425	2.8333-2.8393	⅜-¼pr	⅝-½pr
Lisbon	245.18-248.06	245.18-246.28	55-112ds	128-239ds
Madrid	180.18-181.32	180.18-180.87	24-29ds	80-91ds
Milan	2137.54-2148.46	2137.54-2142.92	2-4ds	7-8ds
Montreal	2.0675-2.1036	2.0675-2.0719	0.59-0.54pr	1.21-1.14pr
New York	1.7955-1.8260	1.7955-1.7970	1.01-1.00pr	2.93-2.91pr
Oslo	11.1447-11.1916	11.1447-11.1719	⅛-⅜ds	par-¼ds
Paris	9.4393-9.7006	9.6652-9.6822	⅝-¼pr	1⅝-1¼pr
Stockholm	10.3295-10.3699	10.3295-10.3561	2⅛-2⅝ds	5½-6⅛ds
Tokyo	227.94-229.62	227.94-228.31	1⅛-⅞pr	3-2⅞pr
Vienna	19.9710-20.0119	19.9713-20.0060	1¾-⅝pr	4¾-⅞pr
Zurich	2.5263-2.5353	2.5263-2.5320	⅝-½pr	1¾-1⅝pr

Source: Extel

Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	1.7842-1.7871
Australia dollar	2.4504-2.4542
Bahrain dinar	0.6845-0.6925
Brazil cruzeiro *	2042.36-2042.47
Cyprus pound	0.799-0.809
Finland marka	7.675-7.735
Greece drachma	326.90-330.10
Hong Kong dollar	13.9550-13.9566
India rupee	46.93-47.33
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5195-0.5255
Malaysia ringgit	4.8965-4.9047
Mexico peso	5550-5650
New Zealand dollar	3.3122-3.3202
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.805-6.885
Singapore dollar	2.9523-2.9576
S Africa rand (fin)	5.705-5.800
S Africa rand (com)	5.0171-5.0254
U A E dirham	6.6675-6.7475

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Australia	1.3586-1.3599
Austria	11.00-11.02
Belgium (Com)	32.35-32.45
Canada	1.1528-1.1538
Denmark	6.1040-6.1140
France	5.3675-5.3750
Germany	1.5720-1.5730
Hong Kong	7.7575-7.7585
Ireland	1.7030-1.7050
Italy	1187.5-1189.5
Japan	126.50-126.60
Malaysia	2.7150-2.7180
Netherlands	1.7720-1.7740
Norway	6.1860-6.1960
Portugal	136.45-136.75
Singapore	1.6370-1.6390
Spain	99.95-100.05
Sweden	5.7325-5.7425
Switzerland	1.4035-1.4045

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 10½ Finance Hse 11
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 11 Low 7 Week fixed: 10⅛
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 10 3/16 ; 3 mth 10 1/16 , Sell: 2 mth 10 1/16 ; 3 mth: 10 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	10 5/16-⅛	10 3/16-10⅛	10 3/32-1/32	10-9 15/16	
Sterling Money Rates:	10 7/16-10⅜	10½-10 7/16	10 9/16-7/16	10 9/16-7/16	10½-10⅜
Interbank:	10 21/32-10⅝	10 11/16-10 9/16	10⅝-10½	10 11/16-9/16	10⅝-10 9/16

Overnight: open 10⅜, close 11½.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	10½	n/a	10½	10½	10½
Sterling CDs:	10½-10⅜	10 9/16-10 7/16	10½-10 7/16	10½-10 7/16	10 7/16-10⅜
Dollar CDs:	4.08-4.03	4.08-4.03	4.08-4.03	4.10-4.05	4.27-4.22
Building Society CDs:	10 17/32-13/32	10 19/32-15/32	10 17/32-10½	10 9/16-10½	10½-10 7/16

TREASURY BILLS: Applctn: £1,425m allotted: £300m: Bids: £97.51 % received: 74%; Last week: £97.45 % received: 85%: Avge rate: £9.9712 % last wk £10.0676%: Next week: £300m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	4 1/16-3 15/16	4⅛-3⅞	4⅛-3⅞	4⅛-3⅞	4-3½
Deutschemark:	9⅝-9½	9⅝-9½	9⅝-9½	9⅝-9½	9¼-8¾
French Franc:	10-9¾	9 15/16-13/16	9⅞-9¾	9¾-9⅝	10-9
Swiss Franc:	7½-7¼	7⅝-7⅜	7 13/16-11/16	7 13/16-11/16	8-7
Yen:	5½-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5 5/16-5 3/16	5⅛-5	5½-4½

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $356.70-357.10 **Close:** $357.40-357.90 **High:** $358.50-359.00 **Low:** $355.50-356.00 **Krugerrand:** $357.25-358.25 (£198.25-199.25)
Sovereigns: Old $83.50-84.50 (£46.50-47.50) New $84.50-85.50 (£46.75-47.75)
Platinum: $341.75 (£188.80) **Silver:** $4.13 (£2.295) **Palladium:** $81.75 (£45.15)

COMMODITIES

REPORT: Robusta coffee futures finished a quiet day's business with gains, supported by the strength of the dollar against sterling. Cocoa futures closed around the day's highs in heavy trade, with prices also supported by a continued strengthening in the dollar against sterling. Raw sugar futures dropped back in late afternoon trade.

LONDON FOX

COCOA

Mar	733-732	May	902-890
May	760-759	Jul	909-905
Jul	780-785	Sep	925-924
Sep	809-806	Dec	950-944
Dec	844-842		
Mar	874-872	Volume: 11383	

COFFEE (ROBUSTA)

Sep	unq	May	unq
Nov	unq	Jul	unq
Jan	575-573	Sep	unq
Mar	562-560	Volume: 1229	

RAW SUGAR (FOB)

C Czarnikow		Oct	194.0-83.0
Spot: 184.2		Dec	199.0-71.0
Mar	189.0-87.0	Mar	192.0-82.0
May	199.0-87.0	May	200.0-60.0
Aug	194.0-89.0	Volume: 181	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	261.9-59.5
Spot: 267.5		Dec	261.9-59.5
Mar	268.7-67.5	Mar	261.9-59.5
May	273.7-72.7	May	263.2-61.5
Aug	277.4-76.1	Volume: 505	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on January 10

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	83.24	104.50	107.60
(+/-)	+1.35	n/a	+0.55
Eng/Wales:	83.24	105.40	107.44
(+/-)	-1.39	n/a	+1.25
(%)	+11.3	n/a	+5.5
Scotland:	n/a	101.47	108.85
(+/-)	n/a	n/a	-0.26
(%)	n/a	n/a	-66.1

* Estimated dead carcase weight

LONDON MEAT FUTURES

Live Pig (p/kg)

	Open	Close		Open	Close
Jan	109.5	108.8	Mar	110.0	110.0
Feb	110.0	110.0	Volume: 40		

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)

Jan	124.75
Mar	127.50
May	131.05
Jun	132.75
Sep	111.75
Volume: 310	

BARLEY (close £/t)

Jan	118.55
Mar	120.70
May	122.75
Sep	109.00
Nov	112.00
Volume: 186	

HI-PRO SOYA (close £/t)

Feb	127.50
Apr	126.00
Jun	121.00
Aug	121.50
Oct	123.00
Volume: 0	

POTATO

(£/t)	Open	Close
Mar	unq	119.0
Apr	121.5	122.4
May	140.0	141.3
Volume: 64		

RUBBER
No 1 RSS Cif (p/kg)
Feb 50.25-49.25

LONDON OIL REPORTS (ICIS-LOR)

London 6.00pm: Prices showed some improvement, but had still lost about $1.20 per barrel over the week, because of concerns about a restart of Iraqi exports.

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.30	+0.30
Brent 15 day (Jan)	17.50	+0.35
Brent 15 day (Feb)	17.10	+0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	18.00	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	18.10	+0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Gas .15	197 (n/c)	200 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	163 (+5)	165 (+6)
Non EEC 1H Jan	163 (+5)	164 (+5)
Non EEC 1H Feb	164 (+3)	165 (+3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	60 (-1)	61 (-2)
Naphtha	179 (+1)	181 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES
GAS OIL

Jan	unq	May	158.00-57.50
Feb	158.25-58.00	Jun	159.50-58.75
Mar	158.75-58.50	Jul	161.00-60.50
Apr	158.25-57.50	Vol: 14724	

BRENT

Feb	17.05-17.10	Apr	16.90-16.95
Mar	16.90-17.00	Vol: n/a	

BIFFEX
GNI Ltd ($10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 92	1555	1540	1545
Feb 92	1580	1580	1576
Mar 92	1580	1580	1585
Apr 92	1605	1590	1603

Vol: 274 lots. Open int'st: 2476 Index 1490 +6

FOX MGMI INDEX

Nov	Bid: unq	Offer: ...
Jan	Bid: unq	Offer: ...
Jun	Bid: unq	Offer: ...
(5pm prices)		Volume: unq

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A (£/tonne)	1166.0-1166.5	1195.0-1195.5	626275
Lead (£/tonne)	287.00-288.00	299.00-300.00	66650
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1131.5-1132.5	1106.0-1107.0	193325
Tin ($/tonne)	5480.0-5490.0	5530.0-5535.0	5310
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1127.0-1128.0	1150.0-1151.0	499025
Nickel ($/tonne):	7340.0-7345.0	7395.0-7400.0	17982

Promotion rivals come face to face

London Scottish must be wary of Wrigley's threat

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE prospect of international rugby on the horizon may prove a diversion or worse for some clubs this weekend, but not at Richmond. There, London Scottish and West Hartlepool, the two unbeaten teams in the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship, meet in a match which may have a decisive bearing on the race for promotion.

Scottish lead their rivals from the North-East, having played one game more. "If they win they are certain of promotion in my book," Dave Stubbs, the West Hartlepool coaching organiser, said. "If we win, although we have a way to go, the general feeling at the club would be that we had one foot in the first division, with Newcastle Gosforth constituting the main threat."

The Scots have two of their international forwards, White and Burnell, available, as well as their trialist, Harrold. But they are down to their third scrum half. Withers-Green plays because Millard is out of action with a damaged hand, and Troupe received 15 stitches in a facial cut suffered last weekend.

West Hartlepool, in contrast, parade the country's leading try-scorer at scrum half in Jonathan Wrigley, a player who, in Stubbs's estimation, deserves more attention than he has yet received. Despite the odd injury the compact Wrigley has scored 21 tries, which speaks well of his forwards, and was watched last week by two of the northern division selectors.

However, West travelled yesterday with a squad of 19, to cover for the possible absence of two forwards, Mitchell and Pook. Both have been ill this week and may not have recovered in time to play hooker and flanker respectively. Howe, the divisional lock, has recovered from a knee injury and will have a battle royal with Scott in the lineout.

The England squad for the game against Scotland next week will gather just down the road from the Athletic Ground this evening, although Ireland's spend all today, as well as tomorrow morning, together, to the grief of London Irish.

A clutch of England internationals have withdrawn with injury and illness from the Harlequins team which plays Northampton, as has Edwards, the new Scotland lock, but such considerations have not weighed with Rodber and Bayfield who, despite making their five nations' championship debuts at Murrayfield, turn out for the Saints.

The loyalty to his club of Tim Rodber, England's one new cap against Scotland, does him credit, and it must be hoped he does not regret it. "This is a big month for us at home because we have Bath in a couple of weeks in the cup," Barrie Corless, the Northampton director of coaching, said.

"Of course, Harlequins are amazingly strong. They bring in players from their second team who would be regulars in other clubs. But we showed in the cup final last season, by taking them to extra time, that we can handle them."

Bath cannot afford to concentrate upon anything other than recovery in the league; they have now dropped four points and defeat at home to Leicester, who beat them at the Recreation Ground in a titanic cup struggle last season, would probably be the end of their championship aspirations.

Back, the England B flanker, has withdrawn from Leicester's back row because of a shoulder injury, but so he did a year ago and Tebbutt, his replacement, was outstanding. This year he is replaced by Povoas, a No. 8, which may detract from the mobility of the Leicester pack.

An added dimension to the game is provided by the duel at stand-off half between Barnes and Ainscough, who is making his debut in Leicester's senior side; both men are in the England B squad against Spain next weekend.

MATCH BY MATCH GUIDE

Courage Championship First division

Bath v Leicester

Guscott returns at centre as the champions of last season meet the present first division leaders. Ainscough makes his debut at stand-off for Leicester, replacing Harris, and Glasing comes into the second row to replace Johnson, who is recovering from concussion.

London Irish v Rugby

Irish beat Rugby in both league and cup last season but have lost their five international squad members, the injured Young and the departed Egan, Burns, Keohane and Byrne join the back division against a Rugby side whose pack is disrupted by injuries. Manu moves to lock, Fry is at hooker and Gubbins and Simms rejoin the back row.

Northampton v Harlequins

Packman is fit to take his place on the Northampton wing in a team making no concessions to international demands. Victory would move Northampton ahead of Harlequins, who are without seven first-choice players, including Carling, Halliday and Winterbottom.

Orrell v Bristol

Orrell, who beat Bristol for the first time in a league match last season, resume their quest for the championship with a full-strength XV, including Morris — now restored as the England scrum half. Wring plays his first league match of the season at centre for Bristol as does Johnston on the wing.

Rosslyn Park v Wasps

Rosslyn Park welcome back Thomas to the wing as they hope to open their league account at the sixth time of asking. Childs's return from holiday means Buzza can move from centre to full back for Wasps, with Pilgrim on the wing and O'Leary available at lock.

Saracens v Gloucester

Unchanged Saracens play Gloucester, the only unbeaten first division team, for the first time at home in a league match, having drawn and lost by five points at Kingsholm in successive years. Smith, Jones and Caskie — Gloucester's Scotland trialists — all return as does Matthews at stand-off after recovering from an ankle injury.

Heineken first division

Llanelli v Bridgend

Llanelli renew their assault at the top without their international debutants, Stephens and Copsey. Huw Williams plays stand-off and Derwyn Jones second row against a Bridgend side; with Thomas at centre and Gerrard at prop, looking to make ground on the leading four.

Maesteg v Pontypridd

Pontypridd have McIntosh available after his Scotland trial and will hope to move further away from hapless Maesteg, who are still without a league point. Burnell, once of Cardiff, is now eligible for the Pontypridd back row.

Neath v Cardiff

Phillips, the former Wales hooker, makes his first league appearance of the season for Neath after a back injury. Laity and Bell appear in a revamped threequarter line and should help the champions move clear of Cardiff, who are just below them.

Newport v Newbridge

Traditional Gwent rivalry will come into play at Rodney Parade, with Newbridge showing the stronger form of late. Both clubs have named squads, with Waters, Newbridge's international hooker, under pressure from Johnson for his position.

Pontypool v Swansea

Pontypool, missing Vince Davies with a broken leg, recall Spiller at flanker and give Martin Jones, normally a full back, a game at stand-off in the absence of Phillips, who is on holiday. Victory would put them top. Swansea are without Stuart Davies, their new international, and Webster; Arnold is likely to play No. 8 and Richard Evans lock.

Uttley's scene changes for Best

BY DAVID HANDS

Ten weeks ago Roger Uttley sat with England's management team at Murrayfield, a pensive look on features invariably described as craggy as England clawed their way against Scotland to the World Cup final. Next Saturday, when England begin their defence of the grand slam — against Scotland at Murrayfield — Uttley will probably be watching on television at home.

"I can't get a ticket," Uttley said cheerfully this week as another busy term resumed at Harrow where he teaches. Not that England's immediate past coach wants to be seen "hanging around", as he puts it, while his successor, Dick Best, takes his first steps in the harsh world of international coaching.

Uttley, aged 42, holds the unique position in English rugby of having played in, and coached, a grand slam XV as well as having prepared the side which reached the World Cup final. On Tuesday he received a well-merited award for his services to rugby over two decades from the Save & Prosper Group, one of the Rugby Football Union's main sponsors — the following night he was at a school prize-giving in Surrey, one of the many invitations after he relinquished his honorary yet time-consuming role with England.

"It's very nice to have the time for that sort of thing," Uttley said. "You can use the time you gave to rugby to do more with the family, to do your job properly, and you can go along to schools other than your own and see the achievements of their boys and girls.

"This year I can take up the invitation to the world rowing machine championship which I had to turn down last year because it clashed with the England-Scotland match. Andy Ripley and I did well in the British championship so we both go to Boston next month during school half-term. It's a lot of fun and for people who still enjoy a competitive atmosphere it's a great opportunity."

Uttley's great virtue when he began coaching England was his playing experience, the honesty and practical virtues of his approach, a sincerity which produced a standing ovation when he spoke on Tuesday. When he came into the post, England's playing reputation was in tatters after the 1987 World Cup; now it has been re-established and, in contrast with the structural problems facing Ireland, Scotland and Wales, England can face the future with confidence.

"My main concern for this season's championship is France," Uttley said. "I'm a great admirer of Pierre Berbizier [recently appointed the French coach]. He was a crafty player and they were foolish to leave him out of their World Cup squad. He's just the guy to go in and sort them out and with the wealth of talent they have, they must be a dangerous side.

"I'll miss being part of the rugby. You get into habits when the team gathers at the Petersham the Wednesday before an international. The management team, Geoff Cooke, John Elliott and I, have become great friends over the last four years and I'll miss the crack with them. It's a wrench but change is inevitable. It would be wrong for us to outstay our usefulness.

Geoff and I agreed a long time ago on the need for continuity during our life with the team, to make sure we could pass something on, a gradual process in the playing and the management context so that we could avoid the traumatic sort of change there has been in the past.

"The players have one new face to cope with and they're comfortable with that. Just as, on our side, last season we reckoned that if we had to have change in the team we could afford two, maybe three, without affecting the development of the side.

"In fact, England have been able to bring in two players with international experience already, and even the one new cap has toured with the senior side to Argentina and knows what to expect.

"I've spoken to Dick Best and I'll do as much as I can to help and assist if required. I'm just looking forward to seeing players I have dealt with continue to play well and get even better. There is great potential in the side with that core of skill and expertise and that degree of confidence to continue to be successful."

Time for reflection: Uttley discovers there is life outside rugby's big-time

East sides have a point to make

BY DAVID HANDS

ALTHOUGH this is no time for parochialism, the old east v west Wales rivalry could not help but bubble to the surface when the Welsh team to play Ireland was named this week. Not one player from east of Cardiff was in the squad of 21, regardless of the prospect of two Gwent clubs, Pontypool and Newbridge, heading the first division of the Heineken League after today's matches.

Pontypool must beat Swansea, the leaders, who have seven players in the national squad, to take over at the top. The crowd at Pontypool Park will have in mind last season's 63-6 humiliation at St Helen's, even though Pontypool won both the return league match and the cup semi-final.

Should they win, then Newbridge could, by beating Newport, join Swansea in second place — easier said than done. Both Pontypool and Newbridge have teams devoid of stars, and so do not lose many players to national squad meetings.

Both clubs could benefit in representative terms from the introduction of an emerging players team, a concept adopted as part of the national development programme by Jeff Young, the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) technical director. The WRU is to establish a committee to oversee international requirements and it has been impressed by Australia's development programme.

The committee may make recommendations for a tour, for emerging players. It will take into account club commitments, such as those of Pontypool, who plan a tour of New Zealand this summer.

Dale McIntosh, the No. 8 from New Zealand, who missed Pontypridd's league match last weekend because he was required for Scotland's trial, returns to Edinburgh tonight after the match with Maesteg so that he can assist the Scottish squad in training for the game next weekend against England.

French must experiment

THE French selectors meet today to choose a squad for their opening five nations' championship match in Cardiff on February 1. They must replace Serge Blanco and Pascal Ondarts, both retired, and may overlook Patrice Lagisquet, the out-of-form Bayonne wing.

Should Jean-Baptiste Lafond revert to full back, two other full backs are contenders as wings: Jean-Luc Sadourny (Colomiers), and Sebastien Viars (Brive).

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

3.00 unless stated

Barclays League First division

Arsenal v Aston Villa
Chelsea v Tottenham
Coventry v QPR
C Palace v Manchester City
Liverpool v Luton
Manchester Utd v Everton
Norwich v Oldham
Nottm Forest v Notts County
Southampton v Sheffield Utd
West Ham v Wimbledon

Second division

Blackburn v Bristol C (all ticket)
Brighton v Barnsley
Bristol R v Tranmere
Grimsby v Oxford
Middlesbro v Ipswich
Plymouth v Leicester
Port Vale v Portsmouth
Southend v Derby County
Sunderland v Millwall
Swindon v Cambridge
Watford v Newcastle

Third division

Birmingham v Leyton Orient
Brentford v Stoke
Bury v Swansea
Darlington v Torquay
Exeter v Bolton
Hartlepool v Chester
Hull v Stockport
Peterborough v Fulham
Reading v Huddersfld
Shrewsbury v Preston
West Bromwich v Bournemouth
Wigan v Bradford

Fourth division

Barnet v Rotherham
Blackpool v Burnley (all ticket)
Cardiff v Hereford
Carlisle v Rochdale
Crewe v Lincoln
Doncaster v Halifax
Gillingham v Walsall
Mansfield v Aldershot
Northampton v York
Scarborough v Chesterfield
Wrexham v Maidstone

Tennents Scottish Cup Second round replay

Cowdenbeath v Peterhead

B and Q Scottish League Premier division

Dundee Utd v Airdrie
Dunfermline v Falkirk
Hearts v Aberdeen
Motherwell v Celtic
Rangers v Hibernian
St Mirren v St Johnstone

First division

Hamilton v Ayr Utd
Kilmarnock v Morton
Meadowbank v Forfar
Montrose v Raith R
Partick v Clydebank
Stirling A v Dundee

Second division

Albion R v Berwick
Arbroath v E Fife
Dumbarton v Alloa
E Stirling v Queen of South
Queens Park v Clyde
Stranraer v Stenhousemuir

FA TROPHY: First round: Altrincham v Stalybridge; Atherstone v Dorking; Aylesbury v Newport AFC; Bangor City v Gretna; Blyth Spartans v Gateshead; Bromley v Worcester; Cheltenham v Wealdstone; Colchester v Kingstonian; Dagenham v Bashley; Enfield v Slough; Fleetwood v Morecambe; Frickley v Northwich; Gloucester v Harrow; Leek Town v Runcorn; Macclesfield v Boston; Merthyr v Dartford; Northwich v Hyde; Southport v Bishop Auckland; Stafford v Marine; Sutton Coldfield v Farnborough; Sutton Utd v Bath; Telford v Guisborough; VS Rugby v Kettering; Walton and Hersham v Kidderminster; Welling v Dover; Whitby v Barrow; Witton v Billingham; Wivenhoe v Marlow; Woking v Wembley; Wycombe v Salisbury; Yeovil v Chesham.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Bognor v Bishop's Stortford, Hayes v Staines; Hendon v Windsor and Eton; Wokingham v Basingstoke. First division: Barking v Hitchin; Chalfont St Peter v Croydon; Dulwich v Abingdon; Leyton Wingate v Tooting and Mitcham; Maidenhead v Harlow; Molesey v Boreham Wood; Stevenage Borough v Yeading. Second division: Banstead Athletic v Barton; Berkhamsted v Southwick; Hanwell v Ruislip Manor; Lewes v Billericay; Malden Vale v Leatherhead; Newbury v Saffron Walden. Raisham v Egham; Southall v Purfleet; Ware v Hungerford; Witham v Metropolitan Police; Worthing v Hemel Hempstead. Third division: Camberley v Clapton, Collier Row v Eastbourne; Feltham and Hounslow Borough v Chertsey; Flackwell Heath v Edgware; Hertford v Petersfield, Horsham v Hornchurch; Kingsbury v Royston; Tilbury v Bracknell; Tring v Hampton.

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Buxton v Goole; Chorley v Matlock; Droylsden v Gainsborough; Mossley v Horwich; Shepshed v Accrington; Whitley Bay v Emley. First division: Alfreton v Curzon Ashton; Colwyn Bay v Irlam; Harrogate v Knowsley; Lancaster City v Congleton, Netherfield v Farsley Celtic, Radcliffe Borough v Rhyl; Rossendale v Caernarfon; Winsford v Eastwood Town; Workington v Warrington.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chelmsford v Burton, Corby v Halesowen; Dorchester v Moor Green; Poole v Crawley; Trowbridge v Waterlooville. Southern division: Ashford v Buckingham; Baldock v Andover; Braintree v Burnham; Bury v Dunstable; Fareham v Sittingbourne; Hastings v Gosport Borough; Havant v Hythe; Newport, IoW v Erith and Belvedere; Sudbury Town v Canterbury City; Witney v Margate. Midland division: Alvechurch v King's Lynn; Bedworth v Yate; Hednesford v RC Warwick; Hinckley v Barry; Leicester Utd v Nuneaton Borough; Redditch v Dudley; Rushden v Grantham; Solihull Borough v Tamworth; Stourbridge v Bridgnorth.

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION (2.00): Portsmouth v Crystal Palace; Tottenham v Southampton.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ards v Newry; Ballyclare v Distillery; Coleraine v Glentoran; Crusaders v Glenavon; Larne v Ballymena; Linfield v Cliftonville; Omagh v Bangor; Portadown v Carrick.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Brandon v Newcastle Blue Star; Consett v West Auckland; Langley Park Welfare v Ferryhill Athletic; Peterlee Newtown v Easington Colliery; Shildon v Murton; Tow Law v South Bank; Whickham v Seaham Red Star.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Brantham Athletic v Haverhill; Brightlingsea v Wisbech; Cornard v Tiptree; Felixstowe v Great Yarmouth; Halstead v Wroxham; Lowestoft v Chattons; March Town v Harwich and Parkeston; Newmarket v Clacton; Stowmarket v Histon.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Plymouth Argyle; Chard v Weston-super-Mare; Clevedon v Chippenham; Mangotsfield v Frome; Minehead v Bristol Manor Farm; Ottery St Mary v Paulton; Taunton v Dawlish; Tiverton v Exmouth; Welton v Torrington.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper v North Shields; Brigg v North Ferriby; Glasshoughton Welfare v Eccleshill; Liversedge v Sutton Town; Maltby MW v Ossett Albion; Sheffield v Penistone Colliery; Spennymoor v Armthorpe Welfare; Thackley v Denaby; Winterton Rangers v Harrogate RA.

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Ashton Utd v Skelmersdale; Atherton LR v Bootle; Clitheroe v Flixton; Eastwood Hanley v Blackpool; Nantwich v St Helens.

ABACUS NATIONAL LEAGUE: National division: Afan Lido v Bracon, Bridgend v Abergavenny; Caldicot v Haverfordwest; Ebbw Vale v Aberystwyth; Ferndale v Cwmbran; Inter Cardiff v Llanelli; Pembroke v Briton Ferry; Ton Pentre v Maesteg.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: British Petroleum v Old Actonians; Carshalton v Midland Bank; Civil Service v Old Esthameians; Norseman v Old Bromleians; Winchmore Hill v West Wickham; Alexandra Park v Southgate Olympic; Barclays Bank v Broomfield; Crouch End Vampires v East Barnet OG; Lloyds Bank v Old Salesians; Old Stationers v Polytechnic; South Bank Poly v Isis; Bank of England v Reigate Priory, Brentham v Cuaco; Kew Association v Old Westminster Citizens; Lensbury v Alleyn Old Boys; Merton v Old Lyonians; Royal Bank Scotland v Old Latymerians.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: Old Aldenhamians v Old Bradfieldians. Premier division: Old Etonians v Old Brentwoods; Old Foresters v Lancing Old Boys, Old Malvernians v Old Carthusians. First division: Old Ardinians v Old Salopians; Old Westminsters v Old Harrovians; Old Wykehamists v Old Wellingburians.

RUGBY UNION

2.30 unless stated

Courage Clubs Championship First division

Bath v Leicester (3.00)
London Irish v Rugby
Northampton v Harlequins (3.00)
Orrell v Bristol
Rosslyn Park v Wasps
Saracens v Gloucester

Second division

Blackheath v Liverpool St H (3.00)
Coventry v Wakefield (3.00)
London Scottish v W Hartlepool
Newcastle G v Morley (2.15)
Sale v Bedford (3.00)
Waterloo v Plymouth A (2.15)

Third division

Askeans v Lydney
Broughton Park v Sheffield
Exeter v Clifton (3.00)
Fylde v Richmond (2.15)
Headingley v Nuneaton
Redruth v Roundhay

Fourth division north

Aspatria v Preston G
Durham City v Lichfield (2.15)
Harrogate v Northern (2.15)
Hereford v Winnington Park
Kendal v Walsall
Vale of Lune v Towcestrians (2.15)

Fourth division south

Basingstoke v Southend
Camborne v Maidstone
Havant v Ealing
High Wycombe v London Welsh
North Walsham v Sidcup
Weston-s-Mare v Met Police

McEwan's Scottish League First division

2.00

Gala v Glasgow HK
Hawick v W of Scotland
Jed-Forest v Currie
Melrose v Edinburgh Ac
Selkirk v Watsonians
Stewarts Mel v Boroughmuir
Stirling Co v Heriot's FP

Second division

Corstorphine v Kilmarnock
Dundee HSFP v Ayr
Dunfermline v Edinburgh W
Glasgow Ac v Royal High
Kelso v Preston Lodge
Peebles v Kirkcaldy
Wigtownshire v Musselburgh

Heineken Welsh League First division

2.00

Llanelli v Bridgend
Maesteg v Pontypridd
Neath v Cardiff
Newport v Newbridge
Pontypool v Swansea

Second division

Aberavon v Glamorgan W
Abertillery v Ebbw Vale
Llanharan v Cross Keys
Penarth v South Wales Pol
Tredegar v Dunvant

Club matches

Nottingham v Loughboro Univ (3.00)
Otley v Stourbridge (2.15)

MCEWANS SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Howe of Fife v Hutchesons' Aloysians, Hillhead-Jordanhill v Clarkston; Highland v Biggar; Gordonians v Trinity Academicals, Langholm v Haddington, Grangemouth v Dumfries, Perthshire v Portobello FP. Fourth division: East Kilbride v Linlithgow, St Boswells v Dalziel HSFP, Lismore v Madras College FP, Alloa v Edinburgh University, Cambuslang v Morgan Academy FP, Aberdeen GSFP v Leith Academicals, Penicuik v Carfrae Queen's Park.

HEINEKEN WELSH LEAGUE: Third division: Aberavon Quins v Treorchy, Bonymaen v Llandovery; Narberth v Blaina, Rumney v Mountain Ash; Wrexham v Tenby Utd. Fourth division: Blackwood v Cilfynydd, Pontypool Utd v Kenfig Hill; St Peters v Abercynon, Tumble v Kidwelly, Ystradgynlais v Ruthin.

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: Courage Clubs Championship: First division: Dorking v Old Alleynians, Old Gaytonians v Streatham and Croydon, Old Mid-Whitgiftians v Chesham, Ruislip v Sutton and Epsom, Thurrock v Eton Manor. Second division north: Bishop's Stortford v Tabard; Chingford v Finchley; Ipswich v Old Merchant Taylors', Norwich v Letchworth; Woodford v Harlow. Second division south: Esher v Camberley, Gravesend v Old Colfeians, Old Blues v Guildford and Godalming; Old Juddians v Westcombe Park; Tunbridge Wells v Worthing. Third division north east: Canvey Island v Saffron Walden, Chelmsford v Basildon, Old Edwardians v Cantabrigians, Romford and Gidea Park v Colchester, Westcliff v Brentwood. Third division north west: Grasshoppers v Fullerians, Hertford v Welwyn, Old Verulamians v Old Albanians, St Mary's Hospital v Lensbury; Upper Clapton v Kingsburians. Third division south east: Beckenham v Thanet Wanderers, Charlton Park v Dartfordians; Hastings and Bexhill v Old Beccehamians, Horsham v Chichester, Old Brocklesians v Hove. Third division south west: Cranleigh v Alton; Guy's Hospital v KCS Old Boys, Old Emanuel v Eastleigh, Old Reigatians v Winchester, Portsmouth v Old Walcountians.

SOUTH WEST: Courage Clubs Championship: First division: Berry Hill v St Ives, Brixham v Reading, Cheltenham v Gordon League; Cinderford v Salisbury, Torquay v Newbury. Second division: Abbey v Henley, Barnstaple v Penryn, Coombe Down v Sherborne, Metson v Marlow; Taunton v Oxford. Western Counties: Avonmouth v Penzance-Newlyn, Bridgwater v Okehampton; Clevedon v Newquay Hornets; Old Culverhayesians v Devon and Cornwall Police; Spartans v Launceston. Southern Counties: Aylesbury v Swanage and Wareham, Banbury v Dorchester, Bletchley v Bournemouth, Witney v Grove, Windsor v Redingensians. Cornwall and Devon: Bideford v Hayle, Crediton v Truro, Exeter Saracens v Plymouth CS; Saltash v South Molton, Tiverton v Exmouth. Gloucester and Somerset: Cirencester v Frome, Clevedon v Gloucester Old Boys; Coney Hill v Drybrook, Dings Crusaders v Keynsham, Whitehall v Wiveliscombe. Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire: Beaconsfield v Milton Keynes, Bicester v Slough; Chinnor v Wheatley; Oxford Old Boys v Chiltern, Pennanians v Witney. Berkshire, Dorset and Wiltshire: First division: Bournemouth Poly v Melksham; Bracknell v Chippenham, Devizes v Swindon; North Dorset v Swindon College, Wootton Bassett v Corsham.

NORTH: Courage Clubs Championship: First division: Hull Ionians v Sandal; Middlesbrough v Tynedale, Rotherham v Widnes, Stockton v Birkenhead Park, Wigton v Hartlepool Rovers. Second division: Alnwick v West Park (St Helens); Carlisle v Wigan, Huddersfield v Wharfedale, Lymm v Old Crossleyans, Sandbach v Halifax. North West: First division: Caldy v New Brighton, Chester v Manchester; Egremont v Wirral, Macclesfield v Davenport, St Edwards Old Boys v Sedgley Park. Second division: Ashton-on-Mersey v South Liverpool, Kirkby Lonsdale v Merseyside Police, Netherhall v Wilmslow, Rochdale v Workington; Warrington v Blackburn. North East: First division: Blaydon v Old Brodleians, Gateshead Fell v Morpeth; Keighley v Novocastrians, West Park Bramhope v Pontefract, York v Roundhegians. Second division: Beverley v Ripon, Blyth v Redcar, Bridlington v Old Hymerians; Thornensians v Rockcliff, Westoe v Selby.

MIDLANDS: Courage Clubs Championship: First division: Barkers Butts v Westleigh, Camp Hill v Newark, Derby v Birmingham and Solihull, Leighton Buzzard v Leamington; Syston v Mansfield. Second division east: Amber Valley v Bedford Ath, Biggleswade v Stockwood Park, Moderns v Paviors, Scunthorpe v Peterborough, Stewart and Lloyds v Vipers. Second division west: Bedworth v Keresley, Broad Street v Burton; Newbold v Whitchurch, Stafford v Worcester, Sutton Coldfield v Wolverhampton. East Midlands and Leicester: Ampthill v Hinckley; Aylestone St James v Lutterworth; Belgrave v Stoneygate, Luton v Coalville; Northampton BB Old Boys v Wellingborough. North Midlands: Aston OE v Ludlow, Dixonians v Shrewsbury; Dudley Kingswinford v Old Yardleians; King's Norton v Old Halesonians, West Midlands Police v Lucionians, Notts, Lincs and Derby: Chesterfield v Mellish, Glossop v Kesteven; Lincoln v Spalding, Stanford v Dronfield, West Bridgford v Stamford. Staffordshire and Warwickshire: Coventry Welsh v Nuneaton OE, Leek v Old Longtonians; Stretford v Eccleshall; Tamworth v Kenilworth; Willenhall v Old Leamingtonians.

RUGBY LEAGUE

REGAL TROPHY: Final: Leeds v Widnes (at Wigan, 3.00).

HOCKEY

GLENFIDDICH INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT (Kelvin Hall, Glasgow)

TYPHOO WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Chelmsford v Sutton Coldfield, Wimbledon v Clifton, Sherwood v Doncaster; Ipswich v Yate and South Gloucester; Ealing v Leicester; Slough v Hightown.

WOMEN'S TERRITORIAL LEAGUES: East: Blueharts v Anchorians, Bury St Edmunds v Copdock, Canterbury v Bedeyhealth; Saracens v Redbridge, Sevenoaks v Welwyn Garden City. North: Carlisle v Crosby, Chester CO v Sunderland Bedens, Great Harwood v Newcastle, J I Case v Springfields, Poynton v Wakefield; Worksop v Ormskirk Ford. South: Eastcote v Winchmore Hill; Reading v Trojans, Sunbury v Woking; Winchester v Cheam; Worthing v Southampton. West: BAC v Weston, Firebrands v Taunton; Gloucester v Cheltenham; Green Dragons v Exeter; Leominster v East Gloucester, Redland v Colwall; Wimbourne v Bournemouth Club matches: Harlaston v Cambridge, Liverpool v Prescott, North Staffs v Olton.

PIZZA EXPRESS LONDON LEAGUE: Old Kingstonians v Dulwich

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Derby v Birmingham (7.30), Manchester v Sunderland (7.30); Thames Valley v Leicester (7.30), Hemel Hempstead v Worthing (8.00), Cheshire v London (8.00). Second division: Greenwich v Oldham (7.00); Bury v Brixton (7.30), Coventry v Doncaster (7.30) Middlesbrough v Cardiff (7.30); Barnsley v Broxbourne (8.00) Ware v Plymouth (8.00).

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bracknell Bees v Ayr Raiders; Durham Wasps v Murrayfield Racers, Nottingham Panthers v Norwich and Peterborough Pirates. First division: Basingstoke Beavers v Telford Tigers; Fife Flyers v Swindon Wildcats, Milton Keynes Kings v Slough Jets.

ENGLISH LEAGUE: First division: Sheffield Steelers v Haringey Racers, Solent Vikings v Oxford City Stars; Sunderland Chiefs v Medway Bears.

VOLLEYBALL

ROYAL BANK NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Coventry Riga v Aquila; Hilton Leeds v Speedwell Rucanor, Wessex v Polonia Ealing, Reebok Liverpool v Team Mizuno Malory; Manchester Utd v Newcastle (Staffs) VC. Second division: Eastway v Dalston OB, Team Knights v Gateshead Armitage; RAF v Dynamo London; Essex Estonian v Malory II, RTB Chester v Weymouth, Jewson, Radio Trent Rockets v Crunch 91 Women: Second division: Purbrook v Lakeland Ladies; Speedwell v Reebok Liverpool; Chelmsford Partners v Polonia; Spark v Dynamo London II, Manchester Utd v Radio Trent Rockets.

BOWLS

MANCHESTER UNITY LIBERTY TROPHY: Group two: Lancs v Derbys (at Blackpool Borough); Leics v Northumberland (at Melton Mowbray).

LACROSSE

BRINE NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Cheadle v Old Waconians; Hulmeans v Sheffield Steelers; Mellor v Ashton; Sale v Heaton Mersey; Sheffield University v Stockport

OTHER SPORT

DARTS: Embassy world championship (Frimley Green).

SNOOKER: Mercantile Credit Classic final (Bournemouth).

TABLE TENNIS: English Open (NIA Birmingham).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Barclays League First division

Sheffield Wed v Leeds Utd (3.25)...

FA TROPHY: First round: Redbridge Forest v Bromsgrove (3.00).

BORD GAIS OF IRELAND: Premier division (2.30): Athlone v Drogheda; Cork City v Bray Wanderers; Dundalk v Derry; Galway v Sligo; Shamrock v Shelbourne.

WOMEN'S FA: Premier division: Doncaster Belles v Knowsley Utd; Ipswich Town v Notts Rangers, Maidstone Tigresses v Red Star Southampton; Wimbledon v Millwall Lionesses.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Preliminary round: Kells v Hull Dockers (at Whitehaven, 2.00); Wakefield v Huddersfield (1.00).

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP (3.00 unless stated): First division: Bradford v Wigan; Castleford v Salford (3.30); Hull v Warrington (6.15); St Helens v Featherstone; Swinton v Halifax. Second division: Leigh v Ryedale-York (3.30); Oldham v Sheffield, Rochdale v London Crusaders. Third division: Barrow v Chorley (2.30); Batley v Highfield (2.30); Keighley v Bramley (3.15); Nottingham v Dewsbury; Scarborough Pirates v Hunslet (3.30); Trafford v Doncaster (3.30).

HOCKEY

GLENFIDDICH INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT (Kelvin Hall, Glasgow).

WOMEN'S INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: West under-21 (Bristol).

WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Bradford v Northumberland; Slough v City of Portsmouth

BASKETBALL

COCA-COLA NATIONAL CUP: Men: Third round: Thames Valley v Manchester (6.00). Women: Second round: Thames Valley v Brixton (5.30).

CARLSBERG NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Kingston v Birmingham (3.30); Leicester v Cheshire (4.00). Second division: Plymouth v Oldham (4.00). Third division: Leicester v Cheshire (1.30). Women: First division: Ipswich v London Jets (4.00). Second division: South Tyneside v King's Lynn (2.00); Milton Keynes v Sunderland (4.00).

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Murrayfield Racers v Peterborough Pirates; Whitley Bay Warriors v Durham Wasps; Cardiff Devils v Billingham Bombers; Humberside Seahawks v Ayr Raiders. First division: Basingstoke Beavers v Fife Flyers, Blackburn Blackhawks v Swindon Wildcats; Lee Valley Lions v Milton Keynes Kings, Slough Jets v Telford Tigers; Trafford Metros v Romford Raiders.

ENGLISH LEAGUE: Haringey Racers v Chelmsford Chieftains; Oxford City Stars v Streatham Redskins; Solihull Barons v Medway Bears.

VOLLEYBALL

ROYAL BANK NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: Second division: Team Knights v Dalston Old Boys, Eastway v Gateshead Armitage, Essex Estonians v Dynamo London, RAF v Malory II; Radio Trent Rockets v Weymouth Jewson. RTB Chester v Crunch 91 Women: First division: Britannia Music v Ashcombe Dorking; Wessex v Woolwich Bruton, Hilton Leeds v Southgate, Birmingham v Dynamo London Second division: Purbrook (Portsmouth) v Reebok Liverpool City; Speedwell v Lakeland Ladies; Chelmsford Partners v Dynamo London II, Spark v Polonia Ladies

BADMINTON

ROYAL BANK INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: First division north: Lothian v Lancashire Worcestershire v Yorkshire First division south: Hertfordshire v Surrey. Second division north: Derbyshire v Scottish Midlands

CRICKET

NATIONAL INDOOR LEAGUE: Edmonton v Rochester Lancing v Stumps, Peterboro v Solihull, Sheffield v Ipswich, Tottenham v Rochdale, Wellingboro v Walsall

CYCLING

CYCLO-CROSS: De Montford, Western Park, Leicester (1.00), ABC Centreville, Heywood (1.00); Portsmouth NE, Netley (12.00); Rutland CC, Benys Green, Sheffield (1.30)

هكذا من الأصل

RUGBY LEAGUE

Defensive shield can earn Leeds an elusive trophy

By Keith Macklin

WHEN Leeds lured Doug Laughton away from Widnes to be their coach they were aware of the risk. Some pessimists wondered whether Laughton's coaching techniques and motivation, which had brought a decade of success to Naughton Park would travel over the Pennines and succeed where Malcolm Reilly, Maurice Bamford and David Ward had failed.

With Leeds in second place in the championship, and in today's Regal Trophy final against Widnes at Wigan, Laughton has gone a long way towards silencing the doubters, despite the long absence of Ellery Hanley.

The last time Leeds won an important trophy was against the same opponents in this same trophy on the same ground in 1984. Leeds succeeded 18-10.

They are in excellent and consistent form, and are playing so well as a team that they have managed to shrug off the absence of Hanley. The defence has become the most improved section in the Leeds side under Laughton's guidance, and this is where the final could be won this afternoon. Leeds have always been a side with attacking flair, only for the suspect defence to let them down. But not this season.

Widnes, however, have seemed alarmingly vulnerable in defence. This was demonstrated in the recent league game against St Helens, when Widnes conceded 24 points despite playing against 12 men for most of the game.

Leeds's defensive improvement has not weakened their capacity to attack. Schofield is scheming better than ever at stand-off half, the experienced Creasser has emerged from the injury shadows to play his best ever rugby, and the New Zealand full back, Morvin Edwards, has proved to be an outstanding buy.

Widnes will be without their influential half back, David Hulme, who has pneumonia; brother Paul takes his place. It seems likely that they will be without the Tongan forward, Koloto, though Tait and Davies return.

In tomorrow's championship games, Wigan, who have won six successive league games, can steer further away from Leeds by winning at Bradford Northern. Gerald Cordle gets his first full game of the season for Northern, opposite Martin Offiah, playing his second for Wigan.

Peter Fox, the coach, has yet to decide the rest of the team. There are doubts about the fitness of Steve McGowan and Henderson Gill, who were injured during the midweek defeat by Hull.

St Helens should remain in contention after the home match against struggling Featherstone. They make two changes in the pack: Sonny Nickle is in their starting line-up for only the fifth time this season, and the veteran prop, Paul Forber, replaces George Mann, who is suspended. Rovers stick with the 13 which won at Halifax last week, only their second win in ten league games.

☐ Gary Mason, the former British heavyweight boxing champion, will be given a trial with the A team of Keighley Cougars towards the end of the month.

Mason, who lost his title last year to Lennox Lewis, retired from boxing recently because of a detached retina and wants to try rugby league as a new career.

☐ Doncaster are in such a poor financial state that they have placed all their players on the transfer list.

CRICKET

Ramiz in sparkling form

Sargodha: Ramiz Raja, the opening batsman, scored a scintillating 74 to take Pakistan to an easy eight-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the first one-day international of a five-match series yesterday.

Although Pakistan suffered an early blow, losing Zahid Fazal for nine to the bowling of Champaka Ramanayake, they were never really challenged by the Sri Lanka attack.

Ramiz took the man-of-the-match award for his flamboyant innings, which included ten fours in 107 balls. He was eventually caught by Roshan Mahanama off a ball from Kapila Wijegunawardena, the medium-pace bowler.

Javed Miandad, Pakistan's leading run-scorer in Tests, returned to form by hitting an unbeaten 60, reaching his half-century off 96 balls.

Pakistan, who put Sri Lanka in to bat, took full advantage of overcast conditions and overnight dew to restrict the visitors to 155 for six off their 40 overs.

Waqar Younis was the most successful Pakistan bowler, taking two for 13. Aqib Javed, Imran Khan and Akram Raza took one wicket apiece.

Only Asanka Gurusinha and Hashan Tillekeratne made respectable scores, each hitting 37. Gurusinha fell to Akram Raza, caught by Imran at mid-off, but Tillekeratne was unbeaten.

The second match of the series is in Karachi on Monday.

SRI LANKA

R S Mahanama lbw b Waqar	5
U C Hathurusingha c Moin b Imran	6
A P Gurusinha c Imran b Akram	37
*P A de Silva c Wasim b Waqar	19
S T Jayasuriya run out	26
†H P Tillekeratne not out	37
M S Atapattu b Aqib	4
R S Kalpage not out	5
Extras (b 1, lb 5, w 7, nb 3)	16
Total (6 wkts, 40 overs)	155

K I G Wijegunawardena, G P Wickramasinghe and H C P Ramanayake did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-27, 3-69, 4-79, 5-118, 6-136.

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 8-0-33-0; Waqar Younis 8-2-13-2; Aqib Javed 8-1-26-1; Imran Khan 8-0-35-1; Akram Raza 8-0-42-1

PAKISTAN

Ramiz Raja c Mahamana b Wijegunawardene	74
Zahid Fazal b Ramanayake	9
Javed Miandad not out	60
Salim Malik not out	9
Extras (lb 1, w 2, nb 2)	5
Total (2 wkts, 36.5 overs)	157

*Imran Khan, Inzamam-ul-Haq, †Moin Khan, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Akram Raza and Aqib Javed did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-131.

BOWLING: Ramanayake 6-1-19-1; Wijegunawardene 8-0-41-1; Wickramasinghe 5-0-14-0; Gurusinha 4-0-21-0; Kalpage 7-1-32-0; Jayasuriya 8.5-0-29-0

Rugby league finalists go after prize at all costs

By Ken Lawrence

SPORT ON TELEVISION

THE WEEK IN VIEW

IF THERE is one thing you can be certain about in this very uncertain world, it is that 26 footballers playing on Wigan's Central Park this afternoon will, as the saying goes, "be giving their all". For, rugby league has long held the view that nothing concentrates the mind more than money and even in its cup finals — no, particularly in its cup finals — continues to conduct affairs on that hard-nosed financial basis.

As Leeds and Widnes contest today's Regal Trophy (which you can see on *Grandstand* on BBC1 at 3pm), they will be all too aware that the winners will be pick up at least ten times more than the losers. Is anything guaranteed to concentrate the mind and ensure that all strive until the final blast on the hooter more than to know that you are on perhaps £150 to come second and £2,500 to be a winner?

In a sporting world consumed by a lust for money and television exposure (which are not entirely unrelated, of course) rugby league is doing very nicely, thank you. Apart from the considerable sums clubs make from sponsorship, ground advertising and executive membership, the League takes in £325,000 from Silk Cut, the sponsor of the Challenge Cup, £300,000 from Imperial Tobacco for the Regal Trophy, £275,000 from Stones Bitter for the championship and £175,000 from British Coal, which sponsors international matches. Oh, yes. There is also £1.5 million in television fees from BBC and Sky Sports. Does rugby league not worry about treading in football's footsteps towards Mammon and madness? "Good heavens, no," David Howes, the League's public affairs executive, said. "We are still a long long way off football. Martin Offiah, who signed for Wigan for £440,000 is a match winner and the hottest property in rugby league.

"There are only three other players who could command such fees. Ellery Hanley, who is coming towards the end of his career, Garry Schofield, and Jonathan Davies.

"When a club like Wigan buys someone like Offiah they work out the budget very carefully. They assess just how the money will come back — how much extra they can expect from increased gates, from additional sponsorship and from executive boxes." The final this afternoon is a perfect example of sport contriving a competition for money and for television. "It is like football's League Cup — rather than put a sponsor's name on an existing trophy, we invented one for a sponsor and for TV," Howes said. "But we do not take this final to Wembley. We looked at the idea but decided we had to protect our prestigious Challenge Cup."

The Regal Trophy has produced revenue but, more, it has given exposure to the game on television when there was none and at a time when it hit a new high note.

"It has helped put the game into perspective," Howes said. "It has also put us back into the national spotlight. I believe that modern-day rugby league is the best entertainment we have ever served up."

THE WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

TODAY: Big-spending Leeds seek to end a five-year Lancashire monopoly in rugby league cup competitions when they play Widnes in the Regal Trophy final (*Grandstand* from 12.15pm). ITV shows the Mercantile Credit snooker final live (3 and 11.25pm). The one-day cricket international at Auckland between England and New Zealand can be seen in *Grandstand*. The documentary on Sugar Ray Robinson (Sky Sports 2pm today and 5pm tomorrow) should not be missed. Two hours of live golf from the Tournament of Champions is on Screensport (9.30-11.30pm and half an hour earlier on tomorrow's final day).

Palmer: remembered

TOMORROW: Leeds football players take centre stage against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough (ITV, 3.20pm). Today's gem from *The Great Sporting Moments* (BBC2, 4.20pm) features Arnold Palmer and Peter Thomson in the 1967 World Match Play final. Channel 4 (8pm-12.30am) screens the National Football League conference finals to establish who goes to the Super Bowl in two weeks. More rugby league comes from Hull (Sky Sports 6pm) where Warrington are visitors.

MONDAY: Screensport is showing every match of the African Nations Cup until the final on January 26. Egypt-Zambia is live at 6.30pm. Sky Sports has the first four of 56 hours' live coverage of the Australian Open tennis championships, beginning at 8.30am.

TUESDAY: Sky Sports shows the Tottenham-Aston Villa FA Cup replay (7.30pm).

WEDNESDAY: The Leeds-Manchester United FA Cup tie is live on BBC1 (7pm). Sky Sports has highlights (10pm)

THURSDAY: Those entertaining Cameroon footballers are on Sky Sports (6.30pm)

FRIDAY: Both ITV (3.55pm) and BBC2, as part of *Sport on Friday* (2.15), carry the draw for the European football championship finals live from Gothenburg. Muhammad Ali concludes the splendid Sky Sports boxing series, *Legends* (10pm)

Kildimo ends four-year drought

By Michael Seely

IAN STEWART

Deep Sensation, the eventual winner, and Young Pokey, left, touch down virtually together at Ascot yesterday

THAT extraordinary character Kildimo stole the limelight at Ascot yesterday when gaining his first victory for almost four years in the First National Chase.

Despite making a horrible blunder at the last, which nearly unseated Richard Guest, Lady Harris's 12-year-old stormed home by seven lengths from Solidasarock to record his first victory since beating Desert Orchid at level weights in the 1988 Jim Ford Challenge Cup at Wincanton.

Sword Beach, the favourite, finished third, with both Seagram and Steeple View having been withdrawn because of the firm going.

"You always call him ungenuine," said Harvey Smith, husband of the winning trainer, Sue, who completed a long-range double by winning at Wetherby with Pacific Sound. "But he's always been as game as they come. I ride him all the time. He does everything from rounding up the sheep, and he does it all in front like he did today."

Kildimo was trained by Toby Balding and George Moore before being sent to Bingley. "We've had him here in the off-season for the past three years or so," Smith went on. "We now don't know whether to run him in the Grand National or the Gold Cup."

Guest, having only his second ride on Kildimo after a five-year absence, said: "On that occasion he ran away with me. Next time out, he won with Graham Bradley, and Peter O'Sullevan said: 'Kildimo, with a more experienced jockey on his back...' I waited five years to get my own back."

Earlier Deep Sensation had put himself firmly on target for the Arkle Challenge Trophy at the National Hunt Festival when proving far too good for Young Pokey, the 6-4 on favourite, in the PML Lightning Novices' Chase.

"He's always been a good horse, but his chasing career has been a chapter of accidents," said Josh Gifford about the now seven-year-old, who fell at Wincanton before winning at Devon and Exeter, and was then brought down at Kempton. "If all goes well, he'll have one more race before Cheltenham."

Oliver Sherwood, trainer of the runner-up, said: "I don't know why we were odds-on, as Deep Sensation was much the better hurdler."

Declan Murphy excelled himself on the winner. Determined not to be outjumped out in the country, he then bided his time as Young Pokey jumped the quicker at the fourth and third fences from home before making his challenge in the straight.

Toby Balding took the training honours, landing a double with Sirrah Jay and One More Dream.

Sirrah Jay, ridden by Adrian Maguire, beat Acre Hill by 20 lengths in the Bucktail Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Chase and will now be prepared for the Mildmay of Flete Challenge Cup at Cheltenham, a race the trainer has already won twice.

Balding proceeded to show us a novice of exceptional promise when Jimmy Frost brought One More Dream with a well-timed run to beat Fair Crossing by a convincing two-and-a-half lengths in the EBF National Hunt Novices' Hurdle.

"He's got Cheltenham potential all right," said the trainer. "It's just a question of whether we'll get enough experience into him."

Balding is looking forward to running Forest Sun in The Ladbroke at Leopardstown today. "He's better handicapped in Ireland than over here. So if he's going to be a Champion Hurdle horse, he's got to go well."

Paul Holley was concussed when the favourite, Hawthorn Blaze, fell at the third hurdle from home. The jockey will not be allowed to ride for seven days and Tony Procter takes over on stable companion Riverhead in The Ladbroke.

LINGFIELD PARK

MANDARIN

1.20 Noble Singer. 1.50 Everset. 2.20 Creche. 2.50 Brora Rose. 3.20 Quinzii Martin. 3.50 Say You Will.

THUNDERER

1.20 Alternation. 1.50 Crosby. 2.20 Shocking Times. 2.50 Brora Rose. 3.20 Windsor Highness. 3.50 In A Whirl.

GOING: STANDARD SIS

DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW TO MIDDLE NUMBERS BEST

1.20 COWSLIP MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,186: 1m 2f) (9 runners)

1 0-6 BOLD BORIS 8 R Armstrong 9-0 ... B Crossley 7
2 30- ALTERNATION 24 P Cole 8-9 ... C Rutter 3
3 00- COLOURING BOOK 82 M Haynes 8-9 ... D Toole (7) 9
4 4- GOOD AS GOLD 24 J Spearing 8-9 ... G Bardwell 4
5 06-2 LIZZIE DRIPPIN 8 M Usher 8-9 ... J Williams 1
6 00- MISSISSIPPI QUEEN 14 R Williams 8-9 R Cochrane 5
7 422- NOBLE SINGER 15 H Thomson Jones 8-9 ... R Hills 6
8 00- SUN GLORY 43 W Jarvis 8-9 ... N Day 9
9 000- TRUE MOOD 15 J Bethell 8-9 ... M Hills 2

5-2 Noble Singer, 4-1 Lizzie Drippin, 5-1 Good As Gold, 6-1 Alternation, 8-1 Bold Boris, 12-1 Sun Glory, 14-1 others.

1.50 DAFFODIL HANDICAP (£2,646: 1m) (10)

1 441- MAC'S FIGHTER 15 (V,C,F,G) W O'Gorman 7-10-0 Emma O'Gorman (5) 1
2 11-1 SUPER SALLY 10 (CD) M Ryan 5-9-13 ... D Biggs (3) 5
3 020- DORSET DUKE 15 (C,F,G) G Wragg 5-9-8 ... M Hills 10
4 03-1 RINGLAND 8 P Haslam 4-9-5 ... J Fanning (3) 8
5 33-3 ASSIGNMENT 7 (C,F) J Pitch-Hayes 6-9-2 ... B Doyle (5) 4
6 120- CROSBY 15 (CD,F,G,S) P Kelleway 5-8-11 ... W Newnes 6
7 01-0 EVERSET 7 (F) W Musson 4-8-6 ... R Cochrane 7
8 050- NEROLI 15 J (F) A Jones 4-8-7 ... N Adams 2
9 434- TANEGRUS 100 D Elsworth 4-8-6 ... J Williams 9
10 012- LITMORE DANCER 15 (D) J Bethell 4-7-8 ... D Harrison (7) 3

7-2 Ringland, 9-2 Super Sally, 5-1 Dorset Duke, 6-1 Mac's Fighter, 7-1 Tanegrus, 8-1 Litmore Dancer, 10-1 others.

2.20 BLUEBELL CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,167: 5f) (6)

1 22-3 APPEALING TIMES 10 (CD) W O'Gorman 9-1 Emma O'Gorman (5) 5
2 551- CRECHE 25 (B,D) Mrs N Macauley 9-7 ... N Day 2
3 20-2 SHOCKING TIMES 7 R Simpson 8-6 ... S Whitworth 4
4 5 SAVINIEN 7 P Felden 8-5 ... Dale Gibson 3
5 36-1 DOESYOUDOES 7 (V,CD) D Thom 8-4 ... J Williams 1
6 40-2 MYKINDOFMUSIC 7 (B,D,G) M Haynes 7-10 ... R Fox 6

9-4 Creche, 3-1 Shocking Times, 7-2 Doesyoudoes, 4-1 Mykindofmusic, 9-2 Appealing Times, 10-1 Savinien

2.50 VIOLET HANDICAP (£2,238: 1m 5f) (7)

1 221- FIALA 15 (CD) J Gosden 4-10-0 ... M Hills 7
2 00-1 EL DOMINIO 7 (C,G,S) K Cunningham-Brown 4-8-8 ... G Bardwell 2
3 10-2 ADJACENT 7 (C,G) M Dixon 4-8-4 ... N Gwilliams (3) 4
4 01-1 BRORA ROSE 10 (C) J Bethell 4-7-8 ... D Harrison (7) 1
5 43-5 JAWANI 10 (V) J Scargill 4-7-7 ... J Quinn 3
6 31-0 LIFETIMES AMBITION 7 (F) T Casey 4-7-7 ... D Biggs (3) 5
7 000- NORWICK STAR 51 J T Jones 4-7-7 ... N Adams 6

2-1 Fiala, 4-1 Brora Rose, 9-2 El Dominio, 7-1 Jawani, 8-1 Lifetimes Ambition, Adjacent, 20-1 Norwick Star.

3.20 PRIMROSE HANDICAP (£2,343: 1m 2f) (14)

1 60-3 LINE DRUMMER 7 (B) P Kelleway 4-9-11 A Betes (7) 3
2 555- FOREIGN ASSIGNMENT 46J (F) J White 4-9-7 ... R Price (5) 4
3 340- MISTY GODDESS 44 (F) M Jarvis 4-9-6 ... M Hills 1
4 435- SAMURAI GOLD 44 (V,S) P Walwyn 4-9-6 ... R Cochrane 5
5 400- KRISFIELD 14 (B,S) T McGovern 7-9-6 ... J Quinn 7
6 02-0 CHARMING GIFT 10 (B,F) R Williams 5-9-6 ... — 9
7 00-4 MODESTO 7 (D,G,S) K Cunningham-Brown 4-9-5 ... S Whitworth 13
8 535- NIGHT TRANSACTION 14 (F) A Hide 5-9-4 ... Dale Gibson 10
9 301- LORD ADVOCATE 28 (V,CD) M Naughton 4-9-4 ... J Fanning (3) 11
10 03-3 LES AMIS 10 (F,G) M Ryan 5-9-4 ... D Biggs (3) 12
11 000- MISS BROUGHTON 30 (G) W Musson 4-9-2 ... P Bowe (7) 14
12 05-2 QUINZII MARTIN 10 D Haydn Jones 4-9-2 J Williams 8
13 00-0 WINDSOR HIGHNESS 7 (C) M Muggeridge 5-9-2 ... 2
14 00-0 SUMMER SANDS 10 (F) J Harris 4-9-1 C Munday (7) 6

9-2 Quinzii Martin, 5-1 Misty Goddess, 6-1 Samurai Gold, 7-1 Night Transaction, 8-1 Les Amis, 10-1 Lord Advocate, 12-1 others.

3.50 POPPY APPRENTICE HANDICAP (£2,265: 6f) (14)

1 50-3 SALLY'S SON 7 (CD,F) W O'Gorman 6-9-13 ... Emma O'Gorman 9
2 4-65 RUSHANES 7 (CD) T Casey 5-9-10 ... R Perham 1
3 020- THE SHANAHAN BAY 14 (V,CD,F,S) Mrs N Macauley 7-8-7 ... D Biggs 2
4 006- ACROSS THE BAY 199 (F) S Dow 5-9-7 M Jenny (3) 4
5 0/0-0 LUCKY BLUE 7 (CD,F,G) J Fox 5-9-6 ... A Tucker 5
6 43-2 IN A WHIRL 8 (CD,F) D Chapman 4-9-5 ... G Husband 3
7 F34- PROUD BRIGADIER 15 (D,G) W Carter 4-9-2 ... N Gwilliams 13
8 550- NOTANOTHERONE 11J (B) J Long 4-9-1 ... R Price 14
9 4-01 SHEDAD 8 T Barron 4-8-12 ... S Maloney 5
10 231- FURIELLA 124 (D,F) P Haslam 4-8-10 ... J Fanning 12
11 04-6 JOVIAL KATE 7 (C) M Usher 5-8-9 ... D Harrison 11
12 26-0 SAY YOU WILL 10 (V,C,D,F,S) M Naughton 5-8-5 ... B Doyle 7
13 0/0- SUNWIND 8J R Hodges 6-7-12 ... C Hawksley (3) 10
14 /00/ STOCKAIR 37J R Hodges 6-7-9 ... S Drowne 8

9-2 Furiella, 5-1 Shedad, 6-1 In A Whirl, 8-1 Rushanes, 9-1 Say You Will, 10-1 Jovial Kate, Sally's Son, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Gosden, 5 winners from 18 runners, 27.8%; G Wragg, 3 from 12, 25.0%; W O'Gorman, 15 from 61, 24.6%; T Barron, 6 from 27, 22.2%; D Elsworth, 5 from 27, 18.5%; J Bethell, 8 from 55, 14.5%

JOCKEYS: Emma O'Gorman, 12 winners from 52 rides, 23.1%; M Hills, 11 from 63, 17.5%; N Day, 9 from 56, 16.1%; J Williams, 32 from 208, 15.4%; B Doyle, 7 from 46, 15.2%; D Biggs, 10 from 73, 13.7%.

Red Rum improving

RED Rum is continuing to please his vets with steady progress in his battle against colic and a blocked artery. Beryl McCain, wife of trainer Ginger, said yesterday: "We don't want to be too confident but in the last two days he has shown noticeable improvement. He is no longer uncomfortable, his appetite has improved and he is much brighter."

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Ascot

Going: good to firm

1.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, MONTEBEL (P Scudamore, 2-1); 2, Peatswood (Lorna Vincent, 5-2); 3, August Twelfth (A Maguire, 66-1). ALSO RAN: 11-8 fav Clifton Hampden (f), 33 Ivanov (4th) 5 ran NR Primitive Singer 34, dist, 20l N Twiston-Davies at Cheltenham Tote £3.30; £1.60, £1.50 DF £4.90 CSF: £6.79.

1.35 (2m ch) 1, SIRRAH JAY (A Maguire, 11-8 fav), 2, Acre Hill (J Kavanagh, 6-4), 3, Tom Caxton (P Naughton, 100-30); 3 ran. 20l, dist G Balding at Whitcombe. Tote: £2.10. DF £1.40 CSF £3.32

2.10 (2m hdle) 1, ONE MORE DREAM (J F,331, 8-1), 2, Fair Crossing (P Scudamore, 9-2); 3, French Charmer (D Murphy, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 5-6 fav Hawthorn Blaze (f), 5 Bold Weewi (4th), 33 Killarney Man (6th), 50 Clever Junior (5th), 100 Dovehill 8 ran 4l, 2½l, 10l, 9l, 20l. G Balding at Whitcombe Tote: £8.00; £1.40, £1.20, £1.90 DF £15.10 CSF £40.47.

2.40 (2m ch) 1, DEEP SENSATION (D Murphy, 7-4), 2, Young Pokey (J Osborne, 4-6 fav), 3, Icarus (R Fahey, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 25 Poetic Gem (4th) 4 ran NR: Star Season. 1½l, 25l, 8l J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £2.50; DF £1.60 CSF £3.27

3.10 (3m ch) 1, KILDIMO (R Guest, 12-1); 2, Solidasarock (P Scudamore, 3-1); 3, Sword Beach (L Wyer 2-1 fav) ALSO RAN: 5-2 Tipping Tim (5th), 9 Man O'Magic (4th), 20 Demers Cavalry (ur), 100 Black Spur (pu) 7 ran NR Seagram, Steeple View. 7l, 7l, 6l, 30l Mrs S Smith at Bingley Tote £10.60; £2.50, £1.50 DF £18.70 Tno £13.60. CSF £43.38. Tricast £87.89

3.40 (3m hdle) 1, SWEET GLOW (P Scudamore, 7-4 fav), 2, Secret Four (L Harvey, 7-2), 3, Prime Display (J Osborne, 5-2) ALSO: 5 Hurricane Hugo (5th), 20 Babel (4th), 33 Half Place (6th), 6 ran, NR. Tankovsky 2½l, 8l, 15l, 2l, 8l. M Pipe at Wellington Tote. £2.60; £1.70, £2.00. DF £5.70 CSF: £7.78

Jackpot: Not won (pool of £10,760 carried forward to Ascot today).

Placepot: £283.50

Wetherby

Going: soft

12.45 (2m hdle) 1, Perjury (P Niven, 9-2), 2, Gymcrak Gamble (16-1), 3f, Mac Ramblar (50-1); 3f, Tindan (12-1) Derry Reef 9-4 fav 16 ran 2l ½l, dead heat. D Eddy Tote £5.90, £2.40, £28.90, £3.60 (Mac Rambler). £2.10 (Tindan) DF: £607.70 CSF £76.31. No bid

1.15 (3m 100yd ch) 1, Senator Snugfit (R Dunwoody, 6-4 fav), 2, Bullet Train (10-1); 3, De Profundis (25-1) 8 ran 12l, 30l M W Easterby Tote £2.30, £1.10, £2.20, £2.50 DF £11.10 CSF £15.22

1.45 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Coulton (G McCourt, 5-2 fav, Thunderer's nap) 2, Barton Bank (7-2), 3, Ambleside Harvest (7-2) 15 ran NR Erostrra Swan Nk, 8l, M W Easterby Tote: £3.50 £1.60, £1.70, £1.80 DF: £5.60 CSF. £11.33 After a stewards' enquiry, result stood

2.15 (3m 100yd ch) 1, Gambling Royal (R Dunwoody, 10-11 fav, Mandarin's nap); 2, Zeta's Lad (15-1), 3, Wrekin Hill (5-1), 8 ran 5, 4l, D Nicholson Tote £2.10; £1.70, £1.70, £1.80 DF £3.30 CSF: £6.25 Tricast: £14.62.

2.45 (2m hdle) 1, Kanndabil (G McCourt, 9-1), 2, Macho Man (4-1), 3, Full Monty (9-1) Tyburn Lad 2 fav 12 ran 8l, 3½l N Tinkler Tote £4.90, £1.80, £1.90, £3.10 DF £9.80 CSF £44.28. Tricast £315.03

3.15 (2m 4f 100yds ch) 1, Pacific Sound (J Callaghan, 3-1 jt-fav), 2, Crock-Na-Nee (4-1), 3, Deadline (9-1), Ainsty Fox 3 jt-fav 8 ran 8l, 4l Mrs S Smith Tote £4.00, £1.60, £2.00, £1.40 DF, £10.10 CSF £14.81 Tricast £87.07

3.45 (2m hdle) 1, Signor Sassie (G McCourt, 13-8 fav), 2, Al Sabah (16-1), 3, Affair Of Honour (11-4). 11 ran. NR: Bollin William. 12l, 8l. N Tinkler Tote: £3.00; £1.40, £5.50, £1.20 DF: £29.60 CSF £27.73

Placepot: £91.80.

Southwell

Going: standard

12.25 (7f) 1, African Chimes (Emma O'Gorman, 2-1), 2, Welsey Lad (13-2); 3, Eurobiake (15-8 fav) 13 ran NR: Danzig Lad. 4l, 1½l W O'Gorman. Tote: £2.10; £2.50, £2.60, £1.10. DF: £7.10. CSF. £16.03

12.55 (1m 6f) 1, Hand Painted (Lydia Pearce, 3-1 fav); 2, Carlingford (11-1), 3, Kovalevskia (10-1) 13 ran. 2l, 2½l. C Beever Tote: £4.30; £2.50, £4.20, £2.40 DF: £36.20 CSF: £37.51 Tricast. £286.77.

1.25 (1m) 1, Silver Samurai (E Husband, 11-1), 2, Mr Snuggs (14-1); 3, Runnel (15-8) Quiet Miss 4-6 fav. 6 ran. 12l, 4l R Hollinshead. Tote. £17.90; £2.90, £2.40 DF £13.40. CSF £108.01

1.55 (1m 4f) 1, Alle-Roy (R Cochrane, 10-1); 2, Mississippi Beat (10-1), 3, Swagman (7-1) Give Me Hope 3-1 fav. 9 ran. Nk, 5l M Tompkins Tote £7.00; £2.70, £1.80, £2.10. DF £40.60 CSF £92.84 Tricast. £672.36

2.25 (7f) 1, Bold Habit (G Husband, 4-5 fav); 2, Shabansz (20-1), 3, Persidansmich (9-2) 13 ran 1½l. sh hd, W Pearce. Tote £1.90, £1.50, £6.70, £1.10. DF: £77.90. CSF: £17.71

2.55 (1m) 1, Doulab's Image (S D Williams, 2-1 fav); 2, Mac's Princess (13-2), 3, East Barns (9-1); 4, Model Nurse (20-1). 16 ran 1½l, 1½l J Glover. Tote: £3.00; £2.10, £1.50, £2.40, £4.00. DF: £9.70. CSF: £16.71 Tricast: £97.98

3.25 (7f) 1, Palacegate King (R Cochrane, 11-2), 2, Ready To Draw (12-1), 3, Buddy (6-4 fav). 10 ran. ½l, 2½l J Berry. Tote: £4.80, £1.60, £1.10, £1.80. DF: £58.00. CSF. £67.89 Tricast: £138.45 Placepot: £536.30.

Ground turning in Balasani's favour

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

A MIDWEEK prediction of soft ground for The Ladbroke at Leopardstown today tempted one Irish punter to strike a bet of £14,000 to £2,000 about Clippie Lad.

However, with dry weather forecast and the course's superb drainage system meaning that the course dries out faster than any other in the country, the gorund looks likely to favour Martin Pipe's Balasani rather than Clippie Lad, who is easily the best handicapped runner in the field.

Balasani has been well placed to win four of his last five starts and he quickened well to beat Native Mission in the William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown. On 2lb worse terms, Balasani should confirm those placings.

Riverhead, seventh at Sandown, meets the winner on 14lb better terms for a beating of less than eight lengths. This is the second attempt of Riverhead to win this race. David Elsworth's hurdler having finished third behind The Illiad last year.

It would not seem like The Ladbroke if The Illiad was not involved and this will be his fifth run in the race. He finally came good 12 months ago and netted a fortune in the process for his owners, the Furlongs. In the interim they fell out with their trainer, Andy Geraghty, and Noel Furlong succeeded in getting a trainer's licence. There has reportedly been some good backing in the last few days for The Illiad to complete the double but he cannot be fancied at the age of 11.

Clippie Lad was having his first run of the season when beaten a short head by Galevilla Express in the Bookmakers' Hurdle over this course and distance and now meets the winner on 22lb better terms. His record shows, however, that he has never won a race on the Flat or over hurdles on anything other than heavy ground.

Jim Bolger has left in Condor Pan to keep down the weight on Chirkpar, who was second to Oh So Risky in last year's Triumph Hurdle, while Mick O'Toole, who has won the race four times already, expects his unpenalised Limerick winner Simenon to go close.

Those at Cheltenham 22 months ago will still recall the smoothness with which Forest Sun beat Danny Harrold in the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle. He undoubtedly represents a touch of class but may still fail to give 21lb to Balasani.

LEOPARDSTOWN TODAY BBC1

Going: yielding

2.15 THE LADBROKE

(Limited handicap hurdle: listed race: Ir£34,700: 2m) (21 runners)

1 B/11/4 CONDOR PAN 13 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs C Shubotham) J Bolger 9-12-0 ... Mr A O'Brien
2 1115/36 FOREST SUN 15 (D,F,G,S) (M Jackson Bloodstock) G Balding (GB) 7-11-11 ... J Frost
3 /1106-8 THE ILLIAD 14 (CD,G,S) (Mrs E Furlong) N Furlong 11-11-8 ... P McWilliams
4 5011B/0 BANK VIEW 16 (CD,D,G,S) (Date Bloodstock) N Tinkler (GB) 7-11-4 G McCourt
5 511521 GALEVILLA EXPRESS 13 (CD,G,S) (Mrs S Doyle) V Bowens 5-11-3 (4ex) ... C Bowens
6 P28411-6 CHIRKPAR 15 (CD,F,G,S) (M Smurfit) J Bolger 5-11-2 ... L Cassack
7 1483-53 JUNGLE KNIFE 21 (D,S) (N Cook) M Tompkins (GB) 6-11-1 ... A Maguire
8 3206-05 RIVERHEAD 18 (D,S) (White Horse Racing Ltd) D Elsworth (GB) 8-11-0 ... A Procter
9 210-F11 CHAMPAGNE LAD 56 (D,F,G,S) (P James) J Gifford (GB) 6-10-8 ... D Murphy
10 522210 RARE ORDER 14 (D,G,S) (F Conroy) A Moore 8-10-8 ... T Taaffe
11 /14631 SIMENON 18 (D,G,S) (P Donohoe) M O'Toole 8-10-8 ... J Banahan
12 13121-1 BALASANI 42 (D,F,G) (M Smith) M Pipe (GB) 6-10-4 ... P Scudamore
13 11223-2 NATIVE MISSION 42 (D,G) (A F Budgy) Jimmy Fitzgerald (GB) 5-10-3 D Byrne
14 32-6181 HOW'S THE BOSS 13 (D,S) (E Farrell) J Breasla 6-10-2 ... J Tizzy
15 1-02533 SHANKORAK 14 (D,F,G,S) (E O'Mahony) F Berry 5-10-1 ... C O'Dwyer
16 24-0051 CAPE SPY 21 (D,G,S) (C Henley) J Fowler 6-10-0 ... A Powell
17 411-2 CLIPPIE LAD 13 (CD,S) (J Stewart) L Browne 5-10-0 ... T Carmody
18 311244 COCK COCKBURN 15 (D,G,S) (D Kinsella) J Queally 8-10-0 ... D O'Connor
19 3210-41 LARNACA 14 (D,S) (W Matthews) B Kelly 5-10-0 (4ex) ... C Swan
20 14123 MISS DAISY DEE 15 (D,BF,S) (P O'Dea) P Flynn 8-10-0 ... M Duffy
21 P-21122 PRINCE YAZA 15 (D,S) (A Comerford) A Redmond 5-10-0 ... J Magee

Long handicap: Cape Spy 9-13, Clippie Lad 9-12, Cock Cockburn 9-12, Larnaca 9-10 (4ex), Miss Daisy Dee 9-9, Prince Yaza 9-2.

Betting: 9-2 Balasani, 11-2 Clippie Lad, 9-1 Native Mission, 10-1 Jungle Knife, The Iliad, 14-1 Forest Sun, Riverhead, Larnaca, 16-1 How's The Boss, Bank View, 20-1 Champagne Lad, Chirkpar, 25-1 Galevilla Express, Simenon, 28-1 others.

1991: THE ILLIAD 10-10-13 P McWilliams (7-1) A Geraghty 17 ran

Big-race form guide

FOREST SUN 7¼l last of 3 to Propero in Leicester (2m, good to soft) hurdle on penultimate start THE ILLIAD, won this race last term (yielding to soft), 18¾l 6th of 9 to Morley Street in grade I Sandeman Hurdle at Liverpool (2m 4f, good to soft) on penultimate start BANK VIEW 19l 9th of 13 to Rodeo Star in Kempton (2m, good) handicap hurdle GALEVILLA EXPRESS beat CLIPPIE LAD (22lb better off) short head in Leopardstown (2m, yielding) listed hurdle with CONDOR PAN (8lb better off) 2½l 4th. CHIRKPAR beat Harristown Lad 11 in 8-runner Kilkenny (2m 6f, good) handicap hurdle on penultimate start. JUNGLE KNIFE 10l 3rd of 5 to Granville Again in Chepstow (2m, good to soft) hurdle RIVERHEAD 14l 5th of 7 to Gran Alba in grade I Top Rank Christmas Hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to firm) with FOREST SUN (11lb worse off) 1¾l 6th. CHAMPAGNE LAD beat Prime Display 2½l in 9-runner Warwick (2m 5f, good) handicap hurdle. SIMENON beat Start Owen 3l in 13-runner Limerick (2m, soft) hurdle. BALASANI beat NATIVE MISSION (5lb better off) 2l in 20-runner grade III William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown (2m, good) with RIVERHEAD (14lb better off) 5¾l 7th. HOW'S THE BOSS beat Rayaud 1l in 8-runner Leopardstown (2m, yielding) handicap hurdle.

Selection: CLIPPIE LAD (nap)

Waterloo Boy to complete treble with Ascot triumph

MANDARIN

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

WATERLOO Boy, on the crest of a wave following victories at Sandown and *Wetherby, is taken to* continue that excellent work at Ascot today by winning the valuable Victor Chandler Handicap Chase in the hands of Richard Dunwoody.

Since the conditions of today's grade two race stipulate that there are no penalties for horses originally handicapped at or above 11st 7lb, Waterloo Boy has not been penalised for his success on the Yorkshire track two days after Christmas.

However, he must still meet Young Snugfit on 3lb worse terms compared with when he beat him by three-quarters of a length in the Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown at the end of November.

In theory the advantage now lies with Young Snugfit, who finished second to Blitzkreig in the corresponding race 12 months ago. In preferring Waterloo Boy, though, I am siding with a horse in form as opposed to one who ran badly last time, albeit over a trip too far. In an attempt to rekindle the flame of old, Oliver Sherwood has decided not to put blinkers on Young Snugfit again this time.

The presence of Uncle Ernie gives the race additional interest. If he is to have a chance of beating Waterloo Boy at level weights in the Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham in March, he must surely make an impact now in receipt of 18lb. However, he has not raced since April and that lack of match practice could easily count against him at this level.

In contrast, Sure Metal and Good For A Laugh both boast recent winning form but not, I suggest, form of the same vintage as Waterloo Boy.

Now that the weights for the Grosvenor Insurance Handicap Chase have risen overnight to the tune of 14lb, the Gardie Grissell-trained **Stately Lover** has crept into the handicap proper with a fine chance. He is my nap.

At Folkestone a fortnight ago, *Stately Lover made an* excellent start to the season when accounting for Clara Mountain, Good Tonic, Spa*cial and* Shannagary, who had all shown excellent form in their previous race.

Backing horses trained by Mary Reveley this season to a £1 stake now shows a profit of nearly £26, her 59 winners from 173 runners representing a strike rate of 34 per cent.


Grissell: saddles Stately Lover at Ascot (1.25)

At Newcastle, **Friskney Dale Lad** (12.45), **Carbisdale** (2.15), **Just Frankie** (3.15) and **Bonanza** (3.45) could well be four more winners for *the Saltburn trainer who has* already pulled off the four-card trick twice this season.

Carbisdale, who has won *with his head in his chest the* three times that he has raced over fences for Mrs Reveley, is a confident selection to keep *that record intact by winning* the grade two Dipper Novices' Chase.

At Warwick, I like the look *of Romany King's chances of* winning the Edward Courage Cup for the second year in succession having accounted *for Toby Tobias at Newton* Abbot last time.

Finally, Driver looks a decent bet to win the Sleaford Handicap Hurdle at Market Rasen after that sound run behind Prime Display at Kempton.

Dwyer's plans still fluid

THE stable confidence behind Uncle Ernie in today's Victor Chandler Handicap Chase is reflected in the fact that Mark Dwyer intends to ride at Ascot in preference to partnering the strongly-fancied Native Mission at Leopardstown (Michael Seely writes).

However, the situation is complicated not only by the prevailing good to firm ground on the royal track but by the forecast of severe overnight frost.

Explaining the state of play, *Jane Fitzgerald*, the trainer's wife, said yesterday: "If Uncle Ernie runs, Derek Byrne will ride Native Mis*sion in Ireland. Jimmy is* going to walk the course at Ascot and if the ground is too firm the horse will be withdrawn. In that case whether Mark will fly to Ireland will depend on the timing. Of course, if racing is abandoned early, he will be able to get to Ireland in time."

Nicholas Beaumont, the clerk of the course, said: "It will be most unlikely for one night's *frost to put paid to* racing. But, of course, it all depends on the air temperatures later in the morning."

WARWICK

MANDARIN

1.10 The Papparazi. 1.40 River Chase. 2.10 Esha Ness. 2.40 Bolaney Boy. 3.10 Romany King. 3.40 Re-Release. 4.10 Celtic Catch.

THUNDERER

1.10 Final Sound. 1.40 Come Home Alone. 2.10 Esha Ness. 2.40 **TREE POPPY** (nap). 3.10 Romany King. 3.40 Fast Cruise. 4.10 Dr Rocket.

Richard Evans: 3.10 **ROMANY KING** (nap).

Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
4.10 **DR ROCKET**.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

1.10 SHERBOURNE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,565: 2m) (13 runners)

1 41-0 THE PAPPARAZI 51 (D,G,S) E Curley 12-12-0 J Twomey (7)
2 32-P KNAVE OF CLUBS 10 (D,G) P Blockley 5-11-4 P Midgley
3 2214 FIVE LAMPS 37 (CD,G,S) R Dickin 12-11-1 D Meredith
4 0:60 KINO 16 (B,D,G,S) S Sherwood 5-10-9 W Marston
5 3-04 FINAL SOUND 15 (B,D,F) J Baker 7-10-5 P Davies (5)
6 306- IZACYAR 287 (D,G,S) P Hedger 9-10-5 M A Fitzgerald
7 3P52 LAWNSWOOD JUNIOR 8 (F) J Spearing 5-10-5 V Slattery
8 P-30 MOST INTERESTING 22 (D,F,S) G Jones 7-10-4 E Tierney
9 2531 FOREST FAWN 8 (D,G,S) E Wheeler 7-10-3 J Ryan
10 14/ SNOWY BONDLAIR 606 (D,F,G,S) T Casey 13-10-1 P Verling
11 /G-4 HOT COMPANY 16 (D,G) F Bevan 7-10-0 N Leach
12 0-F5 SALLY'S DOVE 8 (D,G) R Price 7-10-0 R Bellamy
13 5446 PANT LLIN 11 (C,F) F Jordan 6-10-0 T Protheroe (5)

4-1 Forest Fawn, 5-1 The Papparazi, 6-1 Five Lamps, 7-1 Final Sound, 8-1 Lawnswood Junior, Kino, 10-1 others

1.40 LEASOWES NOVICES HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £1,155: 2m) (16)

1 P0 BLASKET HERO 14 (B) R Akehurst 10-12 J Railton
2 PP00 *CASTLE REUBEN 10 R Dickin 10-12* Martin Jones
3 3 COME HOME ALONE 52 N Gaselee 10-12 C Llewellyn
4 50 KNOCKAVON 80 J Baker 10-12 N Coleman
5 0536 LANSDOWNE 13 O O'Neill 10-12 V Slattery (5)
6 32 LUKE'S BRAVE BOY 10 (BF) A Hide 10-12 P Hide (7)
7 3 MUDDY LANE 72 B Millman 10-12 W McFarland
8 0F0 OAKBOURNE 39 T Thomson Jones 10-12 R Boucher
9 0 PAPER DANCE 22 R Holder 10-12 N Mann
10 SIDNEY SMITH 84F E Owen jun 10-12 R Stronge
11 P0P0 YOUNG JAMES 44 J Baker 10-12 S Keightley
12 5F CANDLE GLOW 10 Mrs F Walwyn 10-7 B de Haan
13 0P DYD 39 F Jordan 10-7 J Lodder
14 5 ORIENTAL MUSIC 15 R Dickin 10-7 B Powell
15 03 *PARISIAN EXPRESS 8 K Cunningham-Brown* 10-7 R Guest
16 RIVER CHASE 80F K Bailey 10-7 A Tory

3-1 Come Home Alone, 4-1 Luke's Brave Boy, 6-1 Lansdowne, Candle Glow, 8-1 Blasket Hero, 10-1 Paper Dance, 12-1 others

2.10 WARWICK PREMIER CHASE
(£5,071: 3m 1f) (7)

1 -3P0 ESHA NESS 7 (BF,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 9-11-10 M Pitman
2 130- BONSAI BUD 304 (G) D Murray Smith 9-11-7 M Lynch
3 1FF- TUDOR SUN 274 (S) J Bennett 10-11-7 S Burrough
4 41-F CELTIC TRUST 46 (D,S) J McConnochie 9-11-3 J Short
5 -422 FLEMISH FUDGE 15 (BF,G,S) Miss H Knight 10-11-3 B Dowling
6 25- GLENBROOK D'OR 282 A J Wilson 8-11-3 A Webb
7 -P45 K C'S DANCER 11 R Dickin 7-11-3 Martin Jones

4-5 Esha Ness, 5-2 Flemish Fudge, 5-1 Bonsai Bud, 14-1 others

2.40 CORAL GOLDEN HANDICAP HURDLE QUALIFIER (£4,295: 2m 5f) (30)

1 /1-6 BATTALION 7 (D,F,G,S) C Brooks 8-12-0 B de Haan
2 1-12 PACTOLUS 16 (F,G,S) S Christian 9-11-0 M McGonagle (7)
3 1-45 CASTLE SECRET 11 (F) D Burchell 6-10-13 D J Burchell
4 -311 BOLANEY BOY 7 (G,S) J J O'Neill 7-10-12 A Dobbin (7)
5 P1/ WILLSFORD 823 (G,S) Mrs J Pitman 9-10-8 D Gallagher
6 0-11 THE WIDGET MAN 42 (C,D,G,S) J Gifford 6-10-8 P Hide (7)
7 20-6 JUST AS HOPEFUL 16 (G,S) D Barons 6-10-6 N Hawke
8 6/F SAYYURE 18 (F,G) T Thomson Jones 6-10-6 —
9 310- ROYAL ASTRONAUT 273F (C,S) R Akehurst 8-10-5 J Railton
10 41-6 DUNCAN IDAHO 15 (G,S) R Callow 9-10-3 M A Fitzgerald (5)
11 -232 MR GOSSIP 11 (D,G,S) N Henderson 10-10-2 J White
12 P-31 TREE POPPY 5 (G,S) C Brooks 9-10-0 (4ex) B Dowling
13 53-6 HOLY JOE 16 (S) A J Wilson 10-10-0 A Webb
14 5/4 BLACK MOCCASIN 7 (G,S) Mrs J Pitman 9-10-0 M Bowlby
15 4-3R GO SOUTH 12 (B,BF,F) J Jenkins 8-10-0 M Ahern
16 -115 *CAPABILITY BROWN 12 (BF,F,S) M Pipe 5-10-0* L Reynolds (7)
17 2-52 CIMA 10 (S) J Old 14-10-0 P Davies (7)
18 -051 L'UOMO PIU 10 (F,G) A Barrow 8-10-0 W Irvine
19 2-02 LEGAL BEAGLE 12 (G,S) G Harwood 5-10-0 M Perrett
20 33-0 RASTANNORA 71 (BF,F,S) M Pipe 7-10-0 M Foster (3)
21 0433 FIGHTING WORDS 14 (G) J Gifford 6-10-0 E McKinley
22 /53- ENBORNE LAD 354 (G,S) G Enright 8-10-0 R Bellamy
23 140- MARRADONG BROOK 365 (D,F,G) T Forster 7-10-0 C Llewellyn
24 2F1- MARQUEE CAFE 352 (F,S) Miss G Dollar 8-10-0 R Boucher
25 14-0 GLENFORM 15 (B,G,S) M O'Neill 5-10-0 —
26 2-0P *MONTAGNARD 24 (S) M Bradstock 8-10-0* R Stronge
27 3002 NATIVE TRIBE 11 (V,S) G Balding 5-10-0 R Guest
28 5-11 SIMPSON 39 (F,G) J Old 7-10-0 N Coleman
29 102- BLACK SAPPHIRE 285 (S) M Tompkins 5-10-0 B Powell
30 131- MEDIANE 290 (G,S) M Bradstock 7-10-0 M P Fitzgerald (7)

6-1 Tree Poppy, The Widget Man, 7-1 Bolaney Boy, 8-1 Royal Astronaut, Capability Brown, 12-1 Duncan Idaho, 16-1 others

3.10 EDWARD COURAGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£4,503: 2m 4f) (8)

1 3112 AUNTIE DOT 16 (CD,BF,F,G,S) J Webber 11-12-0 M Lynch
2 -111 ROMANY KING 26 (CD,G,S) G Balding 8-11-11 R Guest
3 4-54 PUKKA MAJOR 16 (D,F,G,S) T Thomson Jones 11-10-13 R Boucher
4 -331 *HALF BROTHER 11 (D,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 10-10-13* M Pitman
5 13-3 RAMBLING SONG 51 (D,G,S) T Forster 12-10-12 H Davies
6 F0P3 BUCKSHEE BOY 14 (B,D,G,S) J Pilkington 10-10-10 J Railton
7 -23U KING OF THE LOT 14 (D,BF,G,S) D Nicholson 9-10-9 R Bellamy
8 PP/ POSITIVE 700 (B,C,G,S) K Bailey 10-10-9 A Tory

5-4 Romany King, 7-2 Half Brother, 4-1 Auntie Dot, 7-1 Rambling Song, 10-1 Buckshee Boy, 16-1 King Of The Lot, 20-1 others

3.40 TATTERSALLS MARES ONLY NOVICES CHASE QUALIFIER (£2,916: 2m 4f) (13)

1 633F FAST CRUISE 15 (G,S) E Owen jun 7-10-10 R Stronge
2 -4F2 FIRST CRACK 11 (BF,F,G,S) F Jordan 7-10-10 J Lodder
3 5-43 *GRANNY PRAY ON 53 (BF,S) G Balding 10-10-10* R Guest
4 0-05 GREEN GODDESS 15 S Sherwood 6-10-10 M Richards
5 F51- KITCHI KOO 298 (S) A J Wilson 8-10-10 A Webb
6 4/3 LISALEEN LADY 56 (G) D Nicholson 7-10-10 R Bellamy
7 -525 NEEDWOOD FOREST 5 B Morgan 9-10-10 N Coleman
8 4-F3 NORTHERN JINKS 40 (BF,G) R Dickin 9-10-10 B Powell
9 4-32 QUEEN OF SPARTA 55 Mrs F Walwyn 7-10-10 B de Haan
10 6-1U RE-RELEASE 16 (BF,G,S) M Pipe 7-10-10 R Beggan
11 PP00 RIORDANS WELL 9 W Clay 7-10-10 J Driscoll (7)
12 55/ RONDEAU 679 (F,S) P Jones 9-10-10 G Upton
13 -603 SHARSEAL 14 (S) T Etherington 10-10-10 J Short

5-2 Re-Release, 7-2 Queen Of Sparta, 5-1 Northern Jinks, 6-1 Lisaleen Lady, 8-1 Fast Cruise, 10-1 First Crack, 14-1 others

4.10 HAMPTON HILL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,613: 2m) (16)

1 0- *LIGHTLY STARCHED 241 J Holcombe 6-12-0* —
2 413- PLASTIC SPACEAGE 274 (G) J Old 9-11-10 P Davies (7)
3 2514 DR ROCKET 11 (D,F,G,S) R Dickin 7-11-7 B Powell
4 000- TIPP DOWN 381 D Murray Smith 9-11-2 M Lynch
5 R40- THE FAY MAN 352 (F) B Curley 7-11-0 J Twomey (7)
6 0506 EMERALD RULER 11 F Jordan 5-10-11 J Lodder
7 5-01 CELTIC CATCH 12 (CD,F) J Bosley 6-10-11 M Bosley
8 -306 DUSKY DAY 16 C Hutchings 6-10-2 Martin Jones
9 00/ GAELGOIR 691 C Jackson 8-10-1 V Slattery (5)
10 005- ARTFUL ARTHUR 238 J McConnochie 6-10-0 J Pullin (7)
11 02F JAGGED EDGE 15 R Holder 5-10-0 S Mackey
12 P5-P BOSWORTH BAY 51 B Smart 10-10-0 —
13 -P00 SOMATIME 11 C Jones 8-10-0 A Webb
14 00P CORNISH DELIGHT 8 D Bloomfield 6-10-0 R Greene (5)
15 -0PP BEDFORD BOY 10 J Gifford 7-10-0 P Hide (7)
16 00P6 ROYAL PIPER 12 D Barons 5-10-0 N Hawke

7-2 Celtic Catch, 4-1 Dr Rocket, 5-1 The Faxman, 6-1 Plastic Spaceage, 8-1 Dusky Day, 10-1 Jagged Edge, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Gifford, 10 winners from 32 runners, 31.3%, M Pipe, 29 from 107, 27.1%, N Gaselee, 8 from 30, 26.7%, R Akehurst, 11 from 43, 25.6%, K Bailey, 7 from 28, 25.0%, J J O Neill, 3 from 13, 23.1%

JOCKEYS: M Pitman, 9 winners from 30 rides, 30.0%; N Mann, 6 from 22, 27.3%, G Upton, 5 from 28, 17.9%; R Guest, 4 from 27, 14.8%, D Gallagher, 5 from 34, 14.7%, M Bowlby, 3 from 25, 12.0%.

ASCOT

MANDARIN
12.50 Child Of The Mist.
1.25 **STATELY LOVER** (nap).
2.00 Waterloo Boy.
2.35 Vasiliev.
3.05 Mossy Fern.
3.40 Elementary.

THUNDERER
12.50 Yeoman Cricketer.
1.25 Ida's Delight.
2.00 Uncle Ernie.
2.35 Vasiliev.
3.05 Man On The Line.
3.40 La Cienaga.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

12.50 PHILIP CORNES NOVICES HURDLE

BBC1

(Qualifier: £3,132: 2m 4f) (12 runners)

101 3/20-114 CHILD OF THE MIST 14 (D,G,S) (C Heath) O Sherwood 5-11-4 J Osborne 98
102 213 OFFICER CADET 21 (G) (S Glazer) R Curtis 5-11-4 D Morris 97
103 1 POSTAGE STAMP 21 (D,G) (J Pearce) J Pearce 5-11-4 J McLaughlin 85
104 500-12 YEOMAN CRICKETER 25 (D,BF,G) (Mrs H Alwen) J Gifford 7-11-4 Peter Hobbs 96
105 33//6 ALL ELECTRIC 16 (C Elsey) C C Elsey 7-11-0 M Richards —
106 3 ANDROBOTE 57 (Albury Racing Ltd) R Curtis 6-11-0 G Crone (7) 81
107 F2P261 CUDDY DALE 15 (F,G,S) (G Hubbard) F Murphy 9-11-0 M Dwyer 88
108 25-5354 LIRIE LAD 16 (B Brereton) P Rodford 6-11-0 I Shoemark 83
109 66 MULL HOUSE 7 (M Lowry) F O'Mahony 5-11-0 R Dunwoody ● 99
110 161- RAMPOLDI 259 (G,S) (C Lewis) P Nicholls 5-11-0 H Davies —
111 511342 MISTRESS ROSS 12 (F,G) (Dr J Van Tilborg) G Thorner 9-10-13 N Williamson 92
112 33-3611 SWILLY EXPRESS 8 (S) (P Doherty) S Christian 6-10-13 S McNeill 94

BETTING: 4-1 Mull House, 11-2 Child Of The Mist, 6-1 Officer Cadet, 8-1 Vital Witness, Swilly Express, 10-1 Postage Stamp, 12-1 Cuddy Dale, Yeoman Cricketer, 16-1 Rampoldi, Androbote, 20-1 others.

1991: SECRET FOUR 5-11-4 L Harvey (10-1) R Akehurst 25 ran

FORM FOCUS

CHILD OF THE MIST 19l 4th of 8 to Lift And Load in grade I Challow Hurdle at Newbury (2m 4f 182yd, good); earlier beat Silver Strings 30l in 18-runner Devon (2m 3f, good) novice hurdle with LIRIE LAD 14½l 4th.
OFFICER CADET 13l 3rd of 18 to Muse in Chepstow (2m 4f, good to soft) novice hurdle. POSTAGE STAMP beat Hypnotist 2l in 13-runner Edinburgh (2m 4f, good) novice hurdle. YEOMAN CRICKETER 6l 2nd of 14 to Golden Moss (received 6lb) in Folkestone (2m 6f, soft) novice hurdle.
ANDROBOTE 17l 3rd of 6 to Golden Arctic in novice hurdle over course and distance (good). CUDDY DALE beat Farmlea Boy 12l in 6-runner Kempton (3m, good to firm) handicap chase. MULL HOUSE 18½l 6th of 7 to New York Rainbow in grade I Tolworth Hurdle at Sandown (2m, good to firm); previously 8¾l 6th of 13 to Travado in Kempton (2m, good to firm) novice hurdle. RAMPOLDI beat Book Of Runes 3½l in 11-runner Sandown (2m, good) National Hunt Flat race. SWILLY EXPRESS comfortably beat Forty Watts 8l in 15-runner Newton Abbot (2m 5f 110yd, soft) novice hurdle.
Selection: MULL HOUSE

1.25 GROSVENOR INSURANCE HANDICAP CHASE

BBC1

(£11,592: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

201 1-25132 IDA'S DELIGHT 16 (CD,F,G,S) (J Charlton) J Charlton 13-11-10 B Storey 95
202 831-110 KARAKTER REFERENCE 84 (D,BF,F,G) R O'Sullivan 10-11-8 D Sullivan (3) 85
203 11-3221 FOR THE GRAIN 11 (F,G,S) (H Joel) D Nicholson 8-11-1 R Dunwoody 93
20440/R4-UU VODKATINI 15 (C,D,F,G,S) (D Richardson Racing Ltd) J Gifford 13-11-0 Peter Hobbs —
205 123-333 *PENDENNIS 12 (D,F,G,S) (Lord Pembroke) N Henderson 9-10-7* J Kavanagh 95
206 322022 WIGTOWN BAY 11 (D,F,G) (Proven Hatch Bloodstock Ltd) J Mackie 9-10-4 N Williamson 98
207 U36243 JOHN O'DEE 15 (CD,F,G,S) (G Hubbard) F Murphy 9-10-2 J Osborne 93
208 F1F30-1 STATELY LOVER 14 (D,G,S) (Mrs J Bishop) D Grissell 9-10-0 I Lawrence ● 99

BETTING: 5-2 For The Grain, 4-1 Ida's Delight, 5-1 Pendennis, Stately Lover, 10-1 Karakter Reference, *Wigtown Bay*, 16-1 John O'Dee, 33-1 Vodkatini.

1991: BLAZING WALKER 7-12-0 C Grant (6-4 fav) W A Stephenson 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

IDA'S DELIGHT nk 2nd of 8 to Ardbrin in Wetherby (2m 4f 100yd, good to soft) handicap chase; previously 18l 3rd of 8 to King's Fountain in grade III A F Budge Gold Cup at Cheltenham (2m 4f, good to firm).
KARAKTER REFERENCE beat Kirsty's Boy 1l in 4-runner Cheltenham (3m 1f 100yd, good to firm) handicap chase on penultimate start. *FOR THE GRAIN* beat Ellast ¾l in 5-runner Cheltenham (2m, good) handicap chase; previously 1½l 2nd of 7 to Last 'O' The Bunch in Uttoxeter (2m, soft) handicap chase. PENDENNIS 4l 3rd of 7 to Tipping Tim at Newbury (3m, good) handicap chase. WIGTOWN BAY 7l 2nd of 4 to Nodform in Cheltenham (2m 4f, good) handicap chase. JOHN O'DEE 18l 3rd of 6 to Mr Entertainer at Kempton (2m 4f, good to firm) handicap chase with VODKATINI unseated rider 2nd. STATELY LOVER *beat Clara Mountain 3½l* at Folkestone (2m 4f, good).
Selection: IDA'S DELIGHT

2.00 VICTOR CHANDLER HANDICAP CHASE

BBC1

(Grade II: £30,438: 2m) (6 runners)

301 232-211 WATERLOO BOY 15 (D,F,G,S) (M Deeley) D Nicholson 9-11-10 R Dunwoody 91
302 404-52P YOUNG SNUGFIT 15 (CD,F,G,S) (M Oberstein) O Sherwood 8-11-2 J Osborne 97
303 111122- UNCLE ERNIE 281 (CD,G,S) (A Budge (Equine) Ltd) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-10-6 M Dwyer 94
304 P14-011 SURE METAL 52 (D,F,G,S) (N Hardman & Partners Ltd) D McCain 9-10-5 B Storey ● 99
305 1241-21 GOOD FOR A LAUGH 15 (D,G,S) (Dr M Smurfit) A Moore (Ire) 6-10-4 (4ex) B Sheridan 91
306 F2-45F3 CASHEW KING 15 (CD,F,G,S) (P Moss) B McMahon 9-10-4 T Wall 85

Long handicap: Good For A Laugh 9-12, Cashew King 9-0.
BETTING: 11-8 Waterloo Boy, 4-1 Young Snugfit, 9-2 Uncle Ernie, 11-2 Good For A Laugh, 7-1 Sure Metal, 16-1 Cashew King.

1991: BLITZKREIG 8-10-4 T Carmody (11-4) E O'Grady (Ire) 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

WATERLOO BOY beat Last 'O' The Bunch 7l in 4-runner grade I Castleford Chase at Wetherby (2m, good to soft) with CASHEW KING (20lb better off) 5l 3rd; previously beat YOUNG SNUGFIT (3lb better off) ¾l in 6-runner grade II Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown (2m, good) with CASHEW KING (same terms) 26½l 5th.
YOUNG SNUGFIT pulled up before last in race won by Mr Entertainer in 6-runner Kempton (2m 4f, good to firm) handicap chase. UNCLE ERNIE 12l 2nd of *10 to Young Benz in grade II Perrier Jouet novice* chase at Liverpool (2m, soft), previously 6l 2nd of 14 to Remittance Man in grade I Waterford Castle Arkle novice chase at Cheltenham (2m, good to soft).
SURE METAL beat Ellast 7l in 3-runner Haydock (2m, good) handicap chase. GOOD FOR A LAUGH beat Orbis 3½l in 5-runner Leopardstown (2m 1f, yielding) handicap chase; beat Bitzkneg 5l in 9-runner Punchestown (2m, good) handicap chase last season with YOUNG SNUGFIT (19lb better off) 14l 4th.
Selection: *YOUNG SNUGFIT*

2.35 DURHAM RANGER NOVICES HURDLE (£2,573: 2m) (9 runners)

401 23U-115 AMBROSE 16 (D,F,G) R J-Houghton 5-12-0 Mr G Johnson Houghton 97
402 *ABSCOND (D Samuel) M Robinson 7-11-9* I Lawrence —
403 0/ BARNEY O'NEILL 448F (A Schavenen) J J O'Neill 6-11-9 M Dwyer —
404 2F0-022 GALAXY HIGH 14 (R Hughes) P Leach 5-11-9 R Dunwoody ● 99
405 440/003 RETAIL RUNNER 11 (M Pinto) J Gifford 7-11-9 Peter Hobbs 80
406 0/0455-2 ROSGILL 47 (Brigadier Racing) P Mitchell 6-11-9 J Osborne 73
407 2 ROYAL STANDARD 16 (V,BF) (A Saeed) C Brooks 5-11-9 G Bradley 77
408 2 VASILIEV 14 (M Morrison) R Hannon 4-10-10 S McNeill 98
409 LEGAL LEGACY 82F (W White) Mrs F White 4-10-5 G Martin —

BETTING: 8-11 Vasiliev, 6-1 Ambrose, 13-2 Galaxy High, 10-1 Royal Standard, 14-1 Rosgill, 16-1 Retail Runner, 25-1 others.

1991: NEW DUDS 7-12-0 J Lower (9-4) M Pipe 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

AMBROSE 6¾l 5th of 13 to Travado in Kempton (2m, good to firm) novice hurdle. GALAXY HIGH ¾l 2nd of 11 to Barge Boy in Newbury (2m 100yd, good) handicap hurdle.
RETAIL RUNNER 2½l 3rd of 10 to Spinning in Cheltenham (2m, good) novice hurdle. ROSGILL 8l 2nd of 17 to Stevesdon in Folkestone (2m 110yd, good) novice hurdle. ROYAL STANDARD 1½l 2nd to Knight's Spur in Wolverhampton (2m, good) novice hurdle. VASILIEV 1l 2nd of 21 to highly-regarded Duharra in Newbury (2m 100yd, good) novice hurdle.
Selection: VASILIEV

3.05 *PETER ROSS NOVICES CHASE (£7,115: 3m) (6 runners)*

501 2P46-2P MAN ON THE LINE 16 (F,G) (L Randell) R Akehurst 9-11-4 L Harvey ● 99
502 P-123UF MONTALINO 14 (F,G) (Mrs M Humphrey) J Gifford 9-11-4 R Dunwoody 90
503 U-43F2U SAINT SUPREME 11 (F) (C Sanderson) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-4 C Maude 84
504 6/32-41U SIR NODDY 11 (F) (J Noden) C Vernon Miller 9-11-4 W Humphreys 86
505 F2-62US STRONG APPROACH 14 (Mrs R Carr) J Charlton 7-11-4 B Storey 86
506 5P14-11 MOSSY FERN 25 (G) (R Waters) O Sherwood 5-10-13 J Osborne 92

BETTING: 2-1 Mossy Fern, 3-1 Man On The Line, 7-2 Sir Noddy, 5-1 Montalino, 12-1 Strong Approach, 14-1 Saint Supreme.

1991: LOCAL WHISPER 7-11-4 B Powell (9-1) D Elsworth 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

MAN ON THE LINE pulled up before 3 out behind Mutare at Kempton (3m, good); previously 2l 2nd of 14 to Norman Conqueror at Kempton (2m 4f).
MONTALINO 2nd and beaten when fell last behind Foodbroker Flyer at Folkestone (2m 4f, good); earlier 8l 3rd of 4 to Deadly Charm at Cheltenham (2m, good). SAINT SUPREME 1½l 2nd of 4 to Far Senior at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to firm) on penultimate start. SIR NODDY clear when unseated rider 4 out in novice chase won by Marcelina at Leicester (3m, good); previously beat Singlesole 2l at Leicester (2m 4f). STRONG APPROACH 12¾l 3rd of 10 to Clay County at Newcastle (2m, good). MOSSY FERN beat Duo Drom hd at Folkestone (2m 4f); previously beat Queen Of Sparta nk at Warwick (2m 4f).
Selection: MAN ON THE LINE

3.40 TEAL AND GREEN HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,308: 2m) (8 runners)

601 2020/5-0 ELEMENTARY 16 (B,D,G,S) (P Green) M Pipe 9-12-0 G Bradley —
602 5F1302 LA CIENAGA 10 (CD,F,G) (Duke of Atholl) G Balding 8-10-1 S McNeill 95
603 25-3111 RODEO STAR 16 (D,G,S) (J Bradbury) N Tinkler 6-10-0 M Dwyer ● 99
604 412131 LUSTY LAD 12 (D,F,G) (G Nye) M Haynes 7-10-0 I Shoemark 93
605 1116-04 VIKING FLAGSHIP 16 (D,S) (Roach Foods Ltd) D Nicholson 5-10-0 R Dunwoody 97
606 R13-121 BARGE BOY 14 (D,F,G) (C House) J Old 8-10-0 T Grantham 82
607 26-1124 EASY BUCK 14 (D,BF,G,S) (Burford District Laundry) N Gaselee 5-10-0 C Maude 89
608 5-22011 CHEERFUL TIMES 8F (D,G,S) (M Sturgess) B McMahon 9-10-0 G Robertson (7) 88

Long handicap: Lusty Lad 9-10, Viking Flagship 9-8, Barge Boy 9-0, Easy Buck 8-13, Cheerful Times 8-12
BETTING: 7-2 Rodeo Star, 5-1 Lusty Lad, 11-2 Elementary, 6-1 La Cienaga, 8-1 Barge Boy, Viking Flagship, Easy Buck, 10-1 Cheerful Times.

1991: OLVESTON 7-10-5 R Greene (13-2) D Barons 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

ELEMENTARY 28l 7th of 9 to Prime Display at Kempton (3m, good). LA CIENAGA 1½l 2nd of 5 to Mudahim at Cheltenham (2m, good).
RODEO STAR beat Monday Club 1l at Kempton (2m, good) with VIKING FLAGSHIP (2lb better off) 4l 4th, previously beat Dawson City 4l at Wetherby (2m, good to soft).
LUSTY LAD beat Annio Chilone 7l at Fontwell (2m 2f); previously 10¾l 3rd of 7 to Lake Teereen at Kempton (2m 4f, good to firm). BARGE BOY beat Galaxy High ¾l at Newbury (2m, good) with EASY BUCK (5lb better off) 6l 4th and LA CIENAGA (16lb better off) 25l 7th. EASY BUCK ¾l 2nd of 11 to King Credo at Fontwell (2m 2f, good) on penultimate start with LA CIENAGA (14lb better off) 25l 3rd.
Selection: RODEO STAR

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
Jimmy Fitzgerald	7	19	36.8	T Wall	3	8	37.5
M Pipe	21	78	27.9	Peter Hobbs	10	36	27.8
R Akehurst	7	42	16.7	G Bradley	6	26	23.1
N Henderson	10	61	16.4	L Harvey	6	29	20.7
J Gifford	20	123	16.3	M Dwyer	5	25	20.0
Sherwood	7	44	15.9	J Osborne	9	50	18.0

NEWCASTLE

MANDARIN
12.45 Friskney Dale Lad.
1.15 Stay On Tracks.
1.45 Mazmoor.
2.15 Carbisdale.
2.45 MacArthur.
3.15 Just Frankie.
3.45 Bonanza.

THUNDERER
12.45 Friskney Dale Lad.
1.15 Samfen.
1.45 Mazmoor.
2.15 Carbisdale.
2.45 Macarthur.
3.15 Just Frankie.
3.45 Silk Degrees.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

12.45 TEAL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,716: 2m 4f) (10 runners)

1 06/2-01U FRISKNEY DALE LAD 15 (BF,F) (R Tilley) Mrs G Reveley 7-11-10 P Niven 84
2 226 KILLULA KING 39 (P Piller) W A Stephenson 5-11-8 C Grant 94
3 1-F4511 CAVALIER CROSSETT 10 (F,G,S) (E Caine) *E Caine 11-11-7 Mr P McLaughlin (7)* 85
4 030-383 SAGE BRUSH 44 (Miss A Smith) B Wilkinson 6-11-4 R Hodge (5) 91
5 200-643 HORNBLOWER 15 (V) (Mrs I Bray) M H Easterby 5-11-4 L Wyer 84
6 5/000-0 EBRO 9 (Mrs F Veasey) V Thompson 8-11-1 N Smith (5) 80
7 000-283 TROODOS 47 (A Forty) Mrs S Austin 6-10-7 D Wilkinson 88
8 P005 LAMBSON 16 (I Hall) *R Whitaker 5-10-3* S Wynne (7) ● 99
9 006 REXY BOY 10 (J Collins) W Barker 5-10-0 G Harker 90
10 500-0 GINGER PINK 49 (A Walton) J Johnson 5-10-0 A Orkney —

Long handicap: Ginger Pink 9-7.
BETTING: 3-1 Friskney Dale Lad, 4-1 Cavalier Crossett, 9-2 Lambson, 11-2 Killula King, 6-1 Hornblower, 12-1 Troodos, 14-1 Sage Brush, *20-1 others*

1991: LIGHT DANCER 5-10-8 S Turner (6-1) L Codd 12 ran

1.15 PINTAIL HANDICAP CHASE (£2,684: 3m 6f) (3 runners)

1 0-32231 STAY ON TRACKS 16 (C,F,G,S) (P Piller) W A Stephenson 10-11-7 C Grant 96
2 P1PU-64 SAMFEN 11 (B,C,F,G,S) (F Ballard) M H Easterby 10-10-0 L Wyer ● 99
3 P-44525 JACK OF CLUBS 16 (C,G,S) (B McLean) B McLean 12-10-0 Miss P Robson (7) 89

Long handicap: Samfen 9-13, Jack Of Clubs 8-8.
BETTING: 8-11 Stay On Tracks, 11-8 Samfen, 6-1 *Jack Of Clubs*.

1991: JELUPE 9-11-10 Mr R Sandys-Clarke (16-1) R Sandys-Clarke 6 ran

1.45 SHOVELER NOVICES HURDLE (£1,758: 2m) (9 runners)

1 211 MAZMOOR 23 (G) (D) (Mrs A Eubank) A Eubank 6-11-8 Mr R Hale (7) ● 99
2 PP-6000 NATIONAL VELVET 3 (T Jeffrey) T Jeffrey 9-11-5 Mr S Bell (7) —
3 0/ ORMOND HALL 1185 (R Johnson) R Johnson 8-11-5 Mr P Johnson —
4 02/5-6 SEON 10 (F) (C Hunter Ltd) W Bentley 6-11-5 M Sharratt (7) 76
5 F050 SILVER HAZE 21 (P Piller) W A Stephenson 8-11-5 C Grant 76
6 6- UNDER OATH 259 (R Parker) R Lamb 5-11-5 A Larnach (7) —
7 4-200 WASHAKIE 66 (Mrs F Walton) F Walton 7-11-5 Mr A Robson —
8 40 WINTER OATS 47 (F Ingham) B Wilkinson 5-11-5 D Bentley (7) —
9 0/ WRIGLEY FIELD 932 (L Browne) J Johnson 8-11-5 A Orkney —

BETTING: 11-10 Mazmoor, 4-1 Silver Haze, 6-1 Seon, 10-1 Under Oath, Wrigley Field, 16-1 *Ormond Hall*, 20-1 National Velvet, 25-1 Washakie, 33-1 Winter Oats.

1991: REVE DE VALSE 4-10-10 G Moore (1-3 fav) Denys Smith 17 ran

2.15 DIPPER NOVICES CHASE (£7,396: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

1 6B0-111 CARBISDALE 9 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Williams) Mrs G Reveley 6-11-5 P Niven ● 99
2 LAMANCHA LAD (J Bogue) P Monteith 11-11-5 L O'Hara —
3 0-51254 LEIGH BOY 14 (B,C,F,G,S) (J Robson) G Moore 6-11-5 L Wyer 76
4 15-2381 MERRY MASTER 12 (D,F,G,S) (G Lansbury) R Armytage 8-11-5 Gee Armytage 87
5 3/33F23 POWER PUNCH 23 (W Kemp) W Kemp 8-11-5 K Jones 75
6 61-0401 ON THE HOOCH 9 (F,G,S) (G Solman) Mrs S Bradburne 7-11-0 Mr J Bradburne 75
7 1F12 GALE AGAIN 14 (F) (P Piller) W A Stephenson 5-10-8 C Grant 84

BETTING: 11-10 Carbisdale, 5-2 Gale Again, 7-2 Merry Master, 10-1 On The Hooch, 16-1 Leigh Boy 20-1 Power Punch, 33-1 Lamancha Lad.

1991: MERITMOORE 6-11-5 J Callaghan (11-8 fav) G Moore 5 ran

2.45 BITTERN HANDICAP CHASE (£2,611: 2m 4f) (5 runners)

1 33-432P NOS NA GAOITHE 35 (B,G,S) (P Green) M H Easterby 9-12-0 P Niven 84
2 1131-21 MACARTHUR 16 (C,D,F,G,S) (C,D) (Mrs A Henson) M W Easterby 7-11-4 L Wyer 93
3 2-23324 CAPTAIN MOR 70 (D,F,G,S) (P Piller) W A Stephenson 10-11-2 C Grant 89
4 44-1443 OLD APPLEJACK 14 (CD,F,G,S) (George Tobitt) J Johnson 12-10-13 A Orkney ● 99
5 1FF-223 JESTERS PROSPECT 42 (D,BF,S) (J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 8-10-6 T Reed 88

BETTING: 2-1 Macarthur, 3-1 Jesters Prospect, 7-2 Old Applejack, 9-2 Captain Mor, 8-1 Nos Na Gaoithe.

1991: TACTICO 9-11-0 P Niven (4-9 fav) J J O'Neill 3 ran

3.15 HERON NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£1,795: 2m) (6 runners)

1 231221 JUST FRANKIE 11 (D,F,G) (Lady Susan Watson) Mrs G Reveley 8-11-10 P Niven ● 99
2 414-232 EASY OVER 9 (F,G,S) (Miss V Foster) G Moore 6-11-6 L Wyer 83
3 R/33013- GOSPEL ROCK 287 (S) (Lord Zetland) P Calver 8-11-5 T Reed —
4 0-6014B POSITIVE ACTION 11 (D,F) (G Campbell) M Barnes 6-10-12 C Grant 91
5 P0P44F FIEFDOM 8 (F,G,S) (C Clark) W Storey 12-10-4 K Doolan 86
6 P50566 *CROSSETT CRUISADER 11 (B) (E Caine) E Caine 12-10-2 Mr P McLaughlin (7)* —

BETTING: 6-4 Just Frankie, 2-1 Easy Over, 5-1 Positive Action, 6-1 Gospel Rock, 10-1 Fiefdom 33-1 Crossett Cruisader

1991: MACARTHUR 6-10-4 R Marley 7-2 (M W Easterby) 6 ran

3.45 MALLARD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,682: 2m 4f) (2 runners)

1 P-32124 SILK DEGREES 15 (D,F,G) (G Keary) W Storey 6-11-10 K Doolan 98
2 11-0631 BONANZA 14 (CD,G,S) (D Needham & Partners) Mrs G Reveley 5-11-8 R Hodge (5) ● 99

BETTING: 4-6 Bonanza, 5-4 Silk Degrees.

1991: SAGAMAN 6-10-12 F Murtagh (6-1) L Codd 7 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
M H Easterby	19	74	25.7	C Grant	31	138	22.5
W A Stephenson	52	234	22.2	L Wyer	15	77	19.5
J Johnson	11	54	20.4	T Reed	14	101	13.9
Mrs G Reveley	10	52	19.2	P Niven	15	117	12.8
G Moore	12	63	19.0	N Smith	3	30	10.0
M W Easterby	6	38	15.8				

Only qualifiers

☐ Graham McCourt stole the show at Wetherby yesterday, completing a near 91-1 treble with Coulton (5-2), Kanndabil (9-1) and Signor Sassie (13-8), the last two trained by Nigel Tinkler.

MARKET RASEN

MANDARIN

1.00 Foxy Boy. 1.30 Tebitto. 2.00 Kissane. 2.30 Driver. 3.00 Monumental Lad. 3.30 Maggies Lad. 4.00 Vital Witness.

THUNDERER

1.00 Centenary Star. 1.30 What If. 2.00 River House. 2.30 Isabeau. 3.00 Monumental Lad. 3.30 Qualitair Sound. 4.00 Candy Tuff.

Richard Evans: 2.30 Isabeau. 4.00 Candy Tuff.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

1.00 SPALDING NOVICES CHASE
(Amateurs: £2,272: 3m) (18 runners)

1 P1P3 INTO THE GLEN 59 (D,F) W A Stephenson 9-12-0 A Thornton (7)
2 2421 IXOR 5 (D,G) C Nash 8-12-0 NON-RUNNER
3 P1UP WHAAT FETTLE 9 (D,G) G Richards 7-12-0 J Murphy (7)
4 -P40 BARON TWO SHOES 14 (S) P Blockley 6-11-10 K Green (7)
5 2303 CENTENARY STAR 16 (S) Mrs G Reveley 7-11-10 M Buckley (7)
6 0/5 COURSE OF ACTION 54 P Beaumont 7-11-10 Mrs A Farrell (3)
7 /22- FOXY BOY 402 J Leigh 9-11-10 S Lyons (7)
8 P2 GENERAL HARMONY 10 Miss G Jennings 9-11-10 S Brisby (7)
9 65-5 GREYSBY 16 (G,S) O Brennan 10-11-10 S R Andrews (3)
10 F/4 HELLION 36 (F) J Thorpe 13-11-10 —
11 0P2- *JOLLY FELLOW 265 J Leigh 8-11-10* A Sansome (7)
12 -P6B MONETARY FUND 4 (S) Mrs P Joynes 8-11-10 S Joynes (7)
13 -004 MOYODE REGENT 12 J J O'Neill 8-11-10 A Manners (7)
14 /PP- QUIDEST 305 A Fowler 9-11-10 —
15 U34 RAIKES RUSTLER 10 J Hugill 8-11-10 N Tutty (5)
16 -0F5 *R N COMMANDER 16 C Smith 6-11-10* M Ranger (7)
17 6P0- WOODLANDS GENPOWER 290 (G) P Pritchard 10-11-10 J Pritchard (7)
18 -050 CNOC AN OIR 10 (G) C Broad 8-11-5 M Armytage

3-1 Centenary Star, 7-2 General Harmony, 6-1 Whaat Fettle, 8-1 Into The Glen, Foxy Boy, 10-1 others

1.30 BOSTON CLAIMING HURDLE
(£1,870: 2m 1f) (19)

1 56-2 TEBITTO 154 (F,S) D Wintle 9-11-12 Mr J Wintle (7)
2 //P AVEC COEUR 4 (G,S) R Marvin 10-11-9 —
3 02 HONEY BOY SIMBA 16 M O'Neill 6-11-7 —
4 36P ROBBIE'S BOY 21 (B) M Brown 5-11-7 A Flannigan (7)
5 -021 STAR OATS 30F (CD,G) G Richards 6-11-7 N Doughty
6 R/-P KING BOO 7 G Kelly 6-11-6 Mr C Mulhall
7 P0 *KOLONAKI 16 J Leigh 5-11-6* J J Quinn
8 FP0- LOCHERRE 232 (S) O Brennan 8-11-6 S J O'Neill
9 FLITCHAM 194F J Bostock 5-11-4 D Bridgwater (3)
10 31 MISTY GLOW 11 (G) W Haigh 5-11-4 R Garritty
11 40-5 NO CREDIBILITY 138 (C,G) B Richmond 10-11-4 —
12 -315 WHAT IF 12 (CD,F,G) O Brennan 8-11-1 Helen Brennan
13 50P- ROCHE ROSIE 238 Miss S Wilton 8-11-0 S Davies (3)
14 0521 PHALAROPE 10 (G) J Harris 4-10-12 Mr A Walton
15 26 TOWER BRIDGE 8 J Scargill 4-10-9 A Carroll
16 04 UNASSUMING 10 J Wainwright 4-10-9 R Marley
17 00 WOTAMISTAKATOMAKA 9 R Whitaker 4-10-6 S Turner
18 0225 CHARLYCIA 15 R Earnshaw 4-10-5 S Mason (7)
19 P KATUSHA-MAY 79 T Fairhurst 4-10-3 L Mullaney (7)

5-2 Star Oats, 4-1 Phalarope, 5-1 Tebitto, 7-1 Misty Glow, 8-1 Unassuming, 10-1 What If, Tower Bridge, 12-1 others

2.00 STAMFORD HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,139: 2m 6f) (10)

1 3121 KISSANE 7 (C,D,G,S) C Broad 11-11-13 D Tegg
2 3122 RIVER HOUSE 7 (BF,F,G) W A Stephenson 10-11-12 K Johnson
3 1412 RIVER BOUNTY 16 (F,S) J Upson 6-11-6 R Supple
4 1-02 BLAKES SON 10 (C,F,S) M W Easterby 7-11-3 R Garritty
5 3-41 CREEAGER 7 (C,G,S) J Wharton 10-11-1 S J O'Neill
6 -454 EBONY SWELL 7 (C,D,G,S) S Campion 11-11-1 P Midgley (7)
7 00-5 INVASION 16 (CD,F,G,S) O Brennan 8-10-11 —
8 4063 MOE GREENE 16 (CD,F,G,S) J McConnochie 12-10-1 S Earle
9 060U HINDERENDS 16 P Felgate 8-10-0 R Marley
10 -PP6 MUTARID 16 (F) K Morgan 7-10-0 A S Smith

9-4 Kissane, 7-2 River Bounty, 9-2 Creeager, 6-1 River House, 8-1 Blakes Son, 10-1 Moe Greene, 14-1 Ebony Swell, 20-1 others

2.30 SLEAFORD HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,150: 3m) (15)

1 1423 VOLCANIC DANCER 59 (D,F,S) J Mackie 6-11-10 S J O'Neill
2 F1F- COUTURE STOCKINGS 386 (F,G) J Mackie 8-11-7 C Hawkins
3 P/P KING'S HARVEST 24 (F,G,S) M H Easterby 9-11-6 R Garritty
4 14-6 ROSTREAMER 10 (B,G,S) G Bravery 9-11-3 —
5 PU6- MANDALAY PRINCE 229F T Kersey 8-11-2 Susan Kersey
6 1053 HARD TO HOLD 10 (F,G,S) C Beever 9-11-1 Mr A Hambly
7 3463 DRIVER 16 (F,S) M Brown 6-11-0 A Flannigan (7)
8 1434 SHILINSKI 2 (B,S) G Moore 5-11-0 J Callaghan
9 13F2 ISABEAU 9 (C,BF,F,G) K Morgan 5-10-12 A S Smith
10 40-3 TROPICAL ACE 47 R Voorspuy 5-10-9 R Supple
11 /P-0 ROYAL CHARGE 10 (CD,F,G,S) D Wellicome 11-10-7 A Carroll
12 06-P HITCHENSTOWN 16 (S) M O'Neill 9-10-7 —
13 06-0 YOUNG MINER 10 (S) Mrs T McInnes Skinner 6-10-4 J J Quinn
14 2230 *FINGERS CROSSED 38 (C,D,F,S) O Brennan 8-10-3* D Bridgwater (3)
15 23/ LIFE'S A LARK 799 (G) J Harris 7-10-0 J A Harris

7-2 Driver, 9-2 Isabeau, 5-1 Tropical Ace, 6-1 Volcanic Dancer

3.00 GRANTHAM HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,736: 2m 1f) (7)

1 2322 TRESIDDER 10 (C,G,S) M W Easterby 10-12-0 R Garritty
2 2123 MONUMENTAL LAD 16 (G,S) Mrs H Parrott 9-11-12 D Leahy (7)
3 2202 PURA MONEY 16 (F,G,S) G Richards 10-11-11 N Doughty
4 214U STAY AWAKE 14 (D,F,G,S) J J O'Neill 6-11-9 F Murtagh (5)
5 3-22 VULRORY'S CLOWN 16 (C,F,G,S) O Brennan 14-11-6 Helen Brennan
6 12-1 LIGHTWATER AGAIN 43 (G,S) M Hammond 10-10-7
7 5U1B THE GREEN STUFF 2 (G) J Upson 7-10-2 R Supple

11-4 Pura Money, 7-2 Monumental Lad, 4-1 Stay Awake.

3.30 GRIMSBY NOVICES HURDLE
(£1,716: 2m 1f) (10)

1 21 CAROMANDOO 2 (S) B Murray 11-4 —
2 1 *MAGGIES LAD 155 (CD,F) T Fairhurst 11-4* R Garritty
3 261 QUALITAIR SOUND 16 (CD,G) J Bottomley 11-4 J J Quinn
4 0 DIVING 2 Mrs V Aconley 10-12 P Midgley (7)
5 ELATHIR 219F J Wainwright 10-12 —
6 0 JIM'S WISH 14 G Moore 10-12 J Callaghan
7 3 *RAAWI 10 J Norton 10-12* W Fry (7)
8 STAUNCH FRIEND 162F M Tompkins 10-12 R Campbell
9 06F WEEKDAY CROSS 14 J Jenkins 10-12 N Doughty
10 SALLY FAY 25F T Kersey 10-7 Susan Kersey

15-8 Caromandoo, 7-2 Qualitair Sound, 9-2 Raawi

4.00 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,733: 2m 6f) (19)

1 211 NEGATORY 16 (C,G,S) M Chapman 5-12-0 —
2 6-01 VITAL WITNESS 16 (S) K Morgan 5-11-7 A S Smith
3 1000 *PADIORD 21 (G) D Wintle 5-11-5* P McDermott
4 6541 CANDY TUFF 9 (D,S) Mrs G Reveley 6-11-5 Mr M Buckley (7)
5 F-54 CLYDE RANGER 49 M Hammond 5-10-10 —
6 2/6 THIS NETTLE DANGER 7 O Brennan 8-10-9 S J O'Neill
7 000 SILVER STICK 16 (B) M W Easterby 5-10-7 R Garritty
8 2-20 *LETTERFORE 14 J Upson 5-10-6* R Supple
9 554 JOCK'S BURN 52 G Richards 6-10-5 M Moloney (3)
10 FP65 BENGAL WAY 15 C Tinkler 7-10-5 S Earle
11 P0P5 NOTHINGBUTTROUBLE 9 Mrs H Parrott 8-10-4 D Tegg
12 40-0 KING OF STEEL 15 N Bycroft 6-10-4 F Murtagh (5)
13 0/-0 HUNMANBY GAP 9 P Beaumont 7-10-3 P A Farrell
14 06/- NOM DE FORT 612 R Spicer 7-10-0 Dale McKeown
15 -000 WISEBOW 14 C Weedon 7-10-0 A Carroll
16 P-60 LORDY 51 J McConnochie 7-10-0 —
17 2412 SIBERIAN BREEZE 22 (F) J Glover 4-10-0 —
18 -600 MULTHANDS 10 (B) J Wharton 7-10-0 —
19 000 BUSH BIRD 9 C Smith 4-10-0 Mr M Ranger

5-2 Candy Tuff, 7-2 Negatory, 4-1 Vital Witness

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs G Reveley, 15 winners from 47 runners, 31.9%, G Richards, 14 from 47, 29.8%, J Wharton, 11 from 39, 28.2%, M W Easterby, 17 from 66, 25.8%, J Glover, 7 from 32, 21.9% M Tompkins, 3 from 14, 21.4%

JOCKEYS: F Johnson, 7 winners from 26 rides, 26.9%, B Dalton, 3 from 14, 21.4%, Mrs A Farrell, 3 from 16, 18.8%; R Campbell, 3 from 17, 17.6%, A S Smith, 4 from 30, 13.3%, R Supple, 6 from 49, 12.2%.

Racing next week

MONDAY: Fontwell Park, Carlisle, Southwell (AW)
TUESDAY: Folkestone, Sedgefield, Lingfield Park (AW)
WEDNESDAY: Windsor, Ludlow, Southwell (AW)
THURSDAY: Taunton, Lingfield Park
FRIDAY: Kempton Park, Catterick Bridge, Towcester, Southwell (AW).
SATURDAY: Kempton Park, Haydock Park, Warwick, Catterick Bridge, Lingfield Park (AW)
(Flat meetings in bold)

☐ Richard Perham, who has been riding out for Phil Serpe at *Gulfstream Park, Florida*, this winter, returns to action at Lingfield today when he partners Rushanes for Terry Casey in the *Poppy* Apprentice Handicap.

Blinkered first time

LINGFIELD PARK: 1.50 Tanegrus, 2.20 Mykindofmusic, 3.20 Krisfield

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هكذا من الأصل

TENNIS

Forget forges into final and learns of a friendly draw

From ANDREW LONGMORE IN SYDNEY

GUY Forget's casual progress into the final of the New South Wales Open in Sydney yesterday was spoilt somewhat by news of the draw for the Australian Open, which begins on Monday.

After outserving a bewildered David Wheaton in the semi-finals, Forget learnt that his first-round opponent in Melbourne would be Henri Leconte, his friend and trusted partner in France's epic Davis Cup victory over the United States last month.

Adding to the irony, Forget had tipped his fellow left-hander to reach the last eight just 24 hours earlier. Over my dead body, he might have added. Late yesterday evening, the pair were on the same side of the net in the third round of the doubles.

"We were together when we heard the draw and just laughed," Forget said. "I mean, coming all the way down here to play each other. It'll be a very strange match. We'll both have to hide our emotions because I know how he reacts when he plays. I know he's acting sometimes and he knows me."

Forget is the one with most to lose from the meeting with Leconte because he has carried his rich form of last year into 1992 and, after coming through the tensest match of his life against Pete Sampras in Lyons, must go into the Open tougher and more confident than ever.

He still has to prove he can beat the best when it really matters but Emilio Sánchez, his opponent in the final today, has no doubts.

"He is a national hero in France and he will have gained a lot of confidence after winning the Davis Cup," Sánchez, after a workmanlike 6-4, 7-6 win over the erratic yet gifted Italian, Omar Camporese, said.

If the seedings for the Open work out, Forget's path to the semi-finals will be barred by Michael Stich, who lost his first match of the year in Sydney earlier this week.

But the Wimbledon champion's fragile confidence will be tested by Javier Sánchez, the United States Open quarter-finalist, in the first round and, potentially, by Jonas Svensson in the second.

Jim Courier, the No. 2 seed, and Pete Sampras are in the same half as Stich, though Sampras is reported to be suffering from a shoulder injury and about to withdraw for the second year in succession.

In the other half of the men's singles, Stefan Edberg is seeded to meet Ivan Lendl — another first-round loser in Sydney — in the quarter-finals and the defending champion, Boris Becker, in the semi-finals.

The US Open champion at least has a quiet opening, which is vital after more than two months out of the game. Not so Becker, who could face John McEnroe, back in town for the first time since his default two years ago.

Jana Novotna will not have been comforted by her draw, either. Yesterday, the defending New South Wales Open champion was beaten 6-3, 7-5 by the young German, Anke Huber, who she is also seeded to meet in the last eight of the Open.

The Czechoslovak will need to show rather more fire than she did here if the result is to be any different. Novotna's mood seemed to match the desultory skies overhead, though, given that she lost five straight games in both sets, she did well to keep the scoreline decent.

Huber, aged 17 and seeded No. 8, has a semi-final against a supremely confident Arantxa Sánchez Vicario while Gabriela Sabatini and Mary Joe Fernandez were due to meet in the other women's semi-final.

In Melbourne, Jeremy Bates and Sarah Loosemore moved to within one match of reaching the main draw of the Australian Open. Bates progressed to the third qualifying stage with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 win over Dick Bosse, and then had to play Byron Talbot, of South Africa. Loosemore beat Miki Yokobori, of Japan, 6-3, 6-2 in the first qualifying round.

RESULTS: New South Wales Open: Men: Quarter-final: O Camporese (It) bt C Bergstrom (Swe), 6-7, 6-4, 6-1. Semi-finals: G Forget (Fr) bt D Wheaton (US), 6-3, 6-2; E Sánchez (Sp) bt Camporese, 6-4, 7-6. Women: Quarter-finals: M J Fernandez (US) bt L Meskhi (Georgia), 6-1, 6-2. A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt C Martinez (Sp), 6-4, 6-2. A Huber (Ger) bt J Novotna (Cz), 6-3, 7-5; G Sabatini (Arg) bt G Fernandez (US), 6-2, 7-6.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN SEEDS

Men

1, S Edberg (Swe); 2, J Courier (US); 3, B Becker (Ger); 4, M Stich (Ger); 5, I Lendl (Cz); 6, P Sampras (US); 7, G Forget (Fr), 8, K Novacek (Cz) 9, P Korda (Cz); 10, G Ivanisevic (Croatia); 11, M Gustafsson (Swe); 12, D Rostagno (US); 13, E Sánchez (Sp); 14, M Chang (US); 15, D Wheaton (US); 16, G Prpic (Croatia).

Women

1, M Seles (Yug); 2, S Graf (Ger); 3, G Sabatini (Arg); 4, A Sánchez Vicario (Sp); 5, J Capriati (US); 6, J Novotna (Cz); 7, M J Fernandez (US);8, C Martinez (Sp); 9, M Maleeva-Fragnière (Switz); 10, K Maleeva (Bul); 11, Z Garrison (US); 12, A Huber (Ger); 13, L Meskhi (Georgia); 14, J Wiesner (Austria); 15, H Sukova (Cz), 16, S Appelmans (Bel).

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Redskins will tame Lions

BY ROBERT KIRLEY

IS THERE a place for exciting upstarts at the top of the National Football League? Probably not. The Washington Redskins and the Buffalo Bills are heavily favoured to win their conference championships tomorrow and advance to Super Bowl XXVI.

They have been the form teams throughout the season and only a big upset would bar either of them from the league final in Minneapolis on January 26.

In the National Football Conference (NFC), the Redskins host the Detroit Lions, whom they thrashed 45-0 in the first game of the campaign. Detroit have become the hottest team in the league, with seven successive wins.

The Lions have won their 11 games in domed stadiums but RFK, home of the Redskins, features grass you can mow and weather you cannot predict. Washington are favoured by 13 points.

In the American Football Conference (AFC), the Bills will entertain the Denver Broncos. Buffalo were runners-up to the New York Giants, 20-19, in the Super Bowl last year.

Denver have been defeated in the four Super Bowls in which they have appeared, most recently two years ago. John Elway, the Denver quarterback, is adept at last-minute fireworks but, in the Super Bowl, Denver are always buried long before the fourth quarter and waste Elway's gift.

The Broncos, No. 1 in defense in the AFC, have yielded more than 20 points only twice. The Bills have scored more than 20 points in 13 of their 17 games but, for all their top-rated firepower, they are not particularly enthralling. Unbeaten at home in 19 games, they are 11-point favourites.

The Bills quarterback, Jim Kelly, the prolific runner, Thurman Thomas, and the coach, Marv Levy, are no longer hungry underdogs trying to establish themselves — Buffalo *are* the establishment now. The Bills and the Broncos have not faced each other since last season, when Buffalo won 29-28 at home.

Detroit, one of nine clubs never to have reached the Super Bowl, are unlikely to reach Minneapolis. They have not defeated Washington in 13 games since 1965.

FIXTURES: Conference finals: Tomorrow (won-lost records in brackets; kick-off times GMT): American: Denver Broncos (13-4) at Buffalo Bills (14-3), 17.30. National: Detroit Lions (13-4) at Washington Redskins (15-2), 21.00. Super Bowl XXVI: AFC champions v NFC champions (January 26 at the Hubert H Humphrey Metrodome, Minneapolis).

NFL on TV, page 30

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Rough passage: Michael Grint chips to the 14th green in the President's Putter at Rye yesterday

Ageing warriors stoke the fires

BY JOHN HENNESSY

TWO venerable competitors with the glow of the Royal and Ancient upon them have infiltrated among the mainly youthful figures who now dominate the President's Putter golf tournament at Rye. They are John Behrend, captain of the Royal and Ancient in 1984-5, and Michael Reece, a member of the club's championship committee, who will be 54 today — along with Arthur Scargill, he adds with a certain perverse pride.

Reece, twice a former winner, has been given a new lease of golfing life by a hip replacement operation. He is, however, in the more difficult half of the draw and now has to play David Meacher, son of the shadow social security minister and a probable favourite, in this morning's fifth round.

Reece, a Cambridge man, dispatched two men from the "other place" yesterday, Philip Scarfield, nervously at the 19th, and Nick Burke, more convincingly at the 7th (his 16th). Against Burke, Reece was two up at the turn and virtually won the match when his opponent buried his second to the short 6th in a bunker.

Meacher, winner in 1987, followed a similar pattern. He was hunted all the way to the 18th in the morning by Malcolm Peel and then ran away from Nigel Grant in the afternoon. Meacher, his putter under obedient control, was four up at the turn and frustrated all attempts by Grant to get back in the match.

Behrend, four years senior to Reece, spared his ageing legs with two wins out in the country. He, too, an Oxford man, disposed of two opponents from the "other" university, Cliff Weight, by 5 and 4, and James Palmer, by 6 and 5.

RESULTS FROM RYE

THIRD ROUND: A P Goodwin (Keble, Oxford) bt G M MacSween (Emmanuel, Cambridge), 4 and 3; P J Hogg (St Catharine's, C) bt J M Brandow (Pembroke, O), 7 and 6; A Disley (Brasenose, O) bt I Armitage (Christ Church, O), 2 and 1; D C Taylor (Selwyn, C) bt J R E Kent (Brasenose, O), 21st; D I Wilson (Magdalene, C) bt P J R Bathurst (Magdalene, C), 1 hole; J N Davie (Balliol, O) bt G O Leach (St Peter's, O), 5 and 4; A G Edmond (Trinity, C) bt N A Theyer (Peterhouse, C), 3 and 1.

J G Cruickshank (St John's, C) bt J R Sanders (Brasenose, O), 20th; S A Sharpe (Fitzwilliam, C) bt C E Travers (Jesus, C), 2 and 1; R J Bisson (Christ Church, O) bt T J Hanson (St John's, O), 4 and 3. J H Palmer (St John's, C) bt R F Palmer (St John's, C), 20th. J E Behrend (Corpus Christi, O) bt C J Weight (Jesus, C), 5 and 4; P Dawson (Corpus Christi, C) bt J N Littlewood (New College, O), 3 and 2; J G Clark (St Edmund Hall, O) bt J R A Sherwin (Pembroke, O), 6 and 5; M W R MacPhee (Oriel, O) bt D T Sparrow (Keble, O), 5 and 4

R W Devlin (Wadham, O) bt C J Dale (Trinity Hall, C), 2 and 1. N M Stephens (Lincoln, O) bt A D Chilvers (St Benet's Hall, O), 2 and 1; A P Stracey (Fitzwilliam, C) bt G C Penfold (Queens', C), 5 and 4; J J N Caplan (Magdalene, C) bt C C Ellison (Homerton, C), 4 and 3. S P R Jenkins (Worcester, O) bt J A Skelton (Trinity, C), 3 and 2; M R Cox (Girton, C) bt M Yates (St Catherine's, O), 19th; A D Swanston (Pembroke, C) bt T E D Harker (Oriel, O), 5 and 4; J M T Warman (Selwyn, C) bt C V Finlay (St John's, C), 6 and 5; M C Grint (Brasenose, O) bt P R Pentecost (Pembroke, C), 2 and 1; A N Woolnough (Wadham, O) bt W H P Jackson (St Peter's, O), 1 hole; C G Nevill (Caius, C) bt D L Rendall (Oriel, O), 4 and 3.

J Hampel (St Anne's, O) bt T E Tew (Wolfson, O), 3 and 2; G M Langford (Pembroke, O) bt D M A Steel (Christ's, C), 2 and 1; M J Reece (St Catharine's, C) bt P J Scarfield (St Catherine's, O), 4 and 3; N J Burke (Lady Margaret Hall, O) bt R J H Randall (St John's, C), 1 hole; N J Grant (Christ's, C) bt G T Duncan (Trinity, C), 2 and 1; C D Meacher (Fitzwilliam, C) bt J M Peel (Worcester, O), 1 hole.

FOURTH ROUND: Hogg bt Goodwin, 2 and 1, Disley bt Taylor, at the 21st; Wilson bt Davie, 1 hole; Edmond bt Cruickshank, 6 and 5; Bisson bt Sharpe, 2 and 1; Behrend bt J H Palmer, 6 and 5; Dawson bt Clark, 6 and 5; MacPhee bt Devlin, 6 and 5; Stracey bt Stephens, at the 19th, Caplan bt Jenkins, 3 and 2; Cox bt Swanston, 3 and 2; Warman bt Grint, 7 and 6, Neville bt Woolnough, 1 hole; Hampel bt Langford, 6 and 5; Reece bt Burke, 3 and 2; Meacher bt Grant, 4 and 3.

There is, apparently, much smart money on Jamie Warman, perhaps the best player never to have won the Putter, for all that he is in the stronger, bottom half of the draw. Warman, a stockbroker aged 35, has twice been runner-up and has been in three other semi-finals. He recalls wistfully how a birdie at the 19th in 1982 seemed to have fulfilled his ambition, only for Donald Steel to chip in for an eagle. "That was cruel," he says, with feeling.

Warman also had two overwhelming victories, the second against Michael Grint by 7 and 6, a stark contrast to his experience against Martin Ebert in the second round on Thursday. Two down with four to play, he had won the 15th, 16th and 18th.

His opponent yesterday suffered agonies on the green, four times needing a third putt in the first seven holes. Five up after nine, Warman needed only par figures to win the 2nd and 3rd, his 11th and 12th.

Mark Cox, from the United States, is expected to provide stiffer opposition this morning.

A scrappy round unseats Rafferty

Sanctuary Cove, Australia: Ronan Rafferty lost his overnight lead in the second round of the Sanctuary Cove Classic tournament in Australia yesterday.

The Ulsterman went round in 71 for a two-round aggregate of 138 — but that left him three shots behind Jeff Woodland, of Australia, who finished with a 66, including six birdies. Rafferty described his second round as scrappy.

With rounds of 69 and 66, Woodland leads Rafferty (67 and 71) and defending champion Rodger Davis, who signalled his intentions with a gritty 67 to reach 139.

"I'm back in the tournament where I like to be," warned Davis, who is playing despite knee and ankle injuries.

But Woodland is looking for his first Australian win after a 14-year wait. And after playing on the Hogan Tour last season, he reckons that "playing in the States has toughened me up mentally".

His only error was on the 429-yard par-four fifth hole, where he found the left-hand bunker and missed a one-yard putt to save par.

Davis battled bravely for his 72 on Thursday when he hit just two of the first nine greens in regulation but saved the day with seven one-putts.

Peter O'Malley, of Australia, had a four-hole burst between the third and seventh holes, constructing three birdies and a four-iron hole in one. O'Malley had a hole in one during the 1990 British PGA at Wentworth but received nothing for it. *(Agencies)*

SECOND-ROUND LEADERS: (Australia unless stated): 135: J Woodland, 68, 67. 138: R Rafferty (GB), 67, 71. 139: R Davis, 72, 67. 140: H Baran (US), 70, 70, L Stephen, 72, 68; M Bradley (US), 70, 70. 141: P Fowler, 71, 70. 142: B King, 74, 68; G Watts (NZ), 73, 69; M Harwood, 71, 71; P O'Malley, 74, 68; C Warren, 72, 70.

McNulty gets ahead with seven birdies

Harare: Mark McNulty, recovering from a season of injuries and ailments, and playing with a new driver, set the course alight at Royal Harare yesterday when he shot a 65, seven under par, to take the advantage in the Zimbabwe Open (a Special Correspondent writes).

He leads Anders Haglund, of Sweden, by a shot and Michel Besanceney, of France, by two shots on 137, going into the third round.

McNulty, who finished eleventh on the order of merit last season — despite having a knee operation, a sinus operation and two bouts of pneumonia — used luck and good judgment to compile a near-flawless round, notching up seven birdies.

SECOND-ROUND LEADERS: 137: M McNulty (Zim), 72, 65. 138: A Haglund (Swe), 67, 71. 139: M Besanceney (Fr), 75, 64. 140: J McHenry (Ire), 72, 68; D Wood (Wales), 70, 70. 141: M Sterner (Swe), 67, 74; T Johnston (Zim), 69, 72. 142: M Litton (Wales), 72, 70; B Keates (Zim), 71, 71. 143: J Cheetham (Eng), 69, 74; D Weslermark (Swe), 71, 72; C Cassells (Eng), 70, 73; M Nicholls (Eng), 73, 70.

ROWING

Boat Race is worth £1 m

BY MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

THE Boat Race, supported since 1987 by Beefeater Gin, will continue to be sponsored by the distillery for a further three-year period beginning next year, it was announced yesterday.

Duncan Clegg, the representative for Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Clubs, said yesterday that "the clubs are delighted with the new agreement", which amounts to just over £1 million from 1983 to 1995.

So they should be. Without it they would be in financial straits. The new package is a generous one. Beefeater's sponsorship from 1987 to 1989, which amounted to £330,000, was followed by a second three-year package of £700,000. Half the money will be allocated to the Oxford and Cambridge Rowing Foundation providing, according to Clegg: "a reserve for possible rainier days".

The remainder will go to the clubs themselves, forming a contribution towards the training and equipment costs and the employment of full-time coaches.

The money will also assist the universities in their construction plans. Oxford being in the process of building a new boathouse while Cambridge are upgrading their facilities with a rowing tank and weight-training areas.

Tony Oscroft, Beefeater Gin's commercial director, said that the £1 million was in return for sole sponsorship, both domestic and international, for the event. Since the sponsorship began in 1987, interest has increased significantly in the race, which was reported by over 150 journalists from home and overseas last year. Oxford were preparing on the tideway for this year's race.

YACHTING

New yacht promises to cut costs

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

AN INNOVATIVE 50ft production race yacht designed to address all that is wrong with present-day offshore racing was launched yesterday.

Drawn up by Ed Dubois and built by Bill Green at Lymington, the Spectrum 50, a strict one-design class, promises fast, exhilarating racing at half the cost, and with much greater comfort than that offered by the grand prix racers presently used for such events as the Admiral's Cup.

Based on the highly successful Dubois-designed yacht, Dump Truck, the new class is controlled by strict rules. "The boats will be level in performance and the design encourages off-watch crew members to rest in their bunks below decks, instead of being forced to remain perched uncomfortably on deck throughout the race," Dubois said yesterday. The first boat, which should be completed in time to compete in Cowes Week later this year, has been ordered by Tony Todd.

"It has become glaringly obvious just how much the sport has become fragmented," Todd said. "I am looking for keen racing at a limited cost. There is a strong desire for a fast, affordable one-design yacht of this size."

HOCKEY

Stamp joins St Albans indoor challenge

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

KEVIN Stamp from Welton has joined St Albans in their challenge for the Glenfiddich international indoor tournament in Glasgow today and tomorrow.

St Albans have assembled a strong force, which includes two experienced campaigners, Halliday and Jennings, who can expect strong support from Wisher and Port.

The English champions will face formidable opposition. There are two Scottish clubs — NMP Menzieshill, the holders from Dundee, and Indespension from Glasgow — Holywood '87 from Northern Ireland, Buccaneers and Hattem from the Netherlands, Austrian All Stars, and Club An Der Alster from Germany.

Most of the Scottish talent is at Menzieshill for whom McPherson, Christie, Cox, Cuthill and Golden are ready for battle. McKee, Burns and Ken Morris represent the best in the Irish squad.

Walter Kapounek, although retired from international hockey, returns with a blend of youth and experience in Austrian All Stars.

Club An Der Alster are well stocked with experts from the German national league; Buccaneers, as usual, have a squad of tried and trusted hands; but the other Dutch challenger, Hattem, could make a stronger impact.

Outdoors, East Grinstead meet the Great Britain team to mark the opening of the club's artificial turf pitch. The GB squad will not be at full strength. Luckes, Batchelor and Clift will play for East Grinstead; Kerly and Shaw are not available.

☐ Great Britain lost 5-0 to the Netherlands and finished last in the four nations' under-21 tournament at Lahore yesterday.

Batchelor: club call

RESULTS: Pakistan 1, Germany 0; Netherlands 5, Great Britain 0. Final placings: 1, Pakistan; 2, Netherlands; 3, Germany; 4, Great Britain

SKI REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	Temp °C	Last snow fall
FRANCE							
Argentiere	65	240	good	open	sunny	-6	9/1
(Good overall skiing though best on glaciers)							
Chamonix	65	240	good	open	sun/cloud	-6	9/1
(All pistes and lifts open; 20cm new snow all levels)							
La Clusaz	45	170	good	open	fine	-3	9/1
(Best conditions on La Balme glacier; most lifts and pistes open)							
Les Menuires	65	130	good	open	fine	-6	9/1
(All lifts, pistes and links open)							
Meribel	60	200	good	open	sunny	-7	9/1
(Very good skiing upper slopes; lower slopes improved now)							
St Gervais	70	140	good	open	fine	-3	9/1
(All pistes and lifts open, including link to Megeve)							
Val d'Isère	110	190	good	open	fine	-7	9/1
(Most lifts and runs open, including to resort and link with Tignes)							
AUSTRIA							
Alpbach	30	110	fair	open	sunny	0	28/12
(Good skiing but slopes now hard; need new snow)							
Brand	30	120	fair	open	sunny	0	5/1
(Overall conditions good; south-facing slopes now soft)							
Kitzbühel	40	70	good	open	sunny	-1	28/12
(Best skiing on Pass Thurn; 63 lifts and 54 pistes open)							
Mayrhofen	30	140	fair	open	sunny	0	27/12
(Good conditions on upper slopes; lower have bare patches)							
Saalbach	50	190	good	open	cloudy	-1	5/1
(All lifts operating; ski circus fully open)							
St Anton	65	150	good	open	cloudy	0	5/1
(Good powder on upper sections; south-facing slopes soft)							
SWITZERLAND							
Arosa	90	110	good	open	cloudy	-2	10/1
(Snow yesterday on top of hard-packed powder)							
Davos	70	140	good	open	snow	-2	10/1
(Light snow yesterday; good conditions; all lifts and runs open)							
Gstaad	15	80	good	open	snow	-2	10/01
(Layer of fresh powder giving good conditions; links open)							
St Moritz	100	150	good	open	snow	-3	10/1
(All lifts operating; good conditions throughout)							
ITALY							
Cervinia	60	160	good	open	snow	-2	10/1
(Heavy snow yesterday; good skiing if weather moderates)							
Livigno	90	180	good	open	snow	+1	10/1
(All 27 lifts open; heavy fall of snow on Thursday)							
Di Campiglio	60	130	good	open	snow	-1	10/01
(All lifts and runs open; 20cm of new snow yesterday)							
Sestriere	80	100	good	open	snow	0	10/1
(More snow forecast for weekend; Sauze D'Oulx via Milky Way open)							

Supplied by Ski Hotline. L and U refer to lower and upper slopes

West Ham supporters ready to stage protest


Slater: multi-million pound attraction

– BY LOUISE TAYLOR

WEST HAM United supporters intend to stage a protest after the home match with Wimbledon today. Their team is one place from the bottom of the first division, and without a win in ten games, but the demonstration will have nothing to do with events on the field.

It is directed against a fund-raising scheme which, according to its critics, has flopped so badly that it has sold only 302 of the 19,000 bonds available. The bonds were launched last month to finance West Ham's plans to transform Upton Park into a 25,000-capacity all-seat stadium in 1994.

Tom Finn, the club secretary, said yesterday: "The bond scheme is our only viable option for meeting the demands of the Taylor report. In the present economic climate, a share issue is simply not feasible. A protest will be extremely regrettable."

The scheme is designed to provide the £15 million required for the Upton Park improvements. It involves supporters buying bonded seats for £500, £750 or £975 and each bond-holder has the right to purchase a season ticket for a particular seat for between 50 and 150 years.

The club reserves the right to set the ticket prices each season, the expiry date of the bond will be determined by the club, and the cost price of the bond is repayable to the owner when called in by the club. If the bond-holder is unable or unwilling to continue watching West Ham, the bond can be resold.

West Ham had anticipated that the 19,000 bonds, released at the start of last month, would be sold out by January 31 but, according to Steve Rapport, editor of the fanzine, *Fortune's Always Hiding*, only 302 had been allocated by last Wednesday.

Finn said: "We do not want to comment on sales now but we will be making them public on January 31. We need to sell 19,000 to afford to redevelop Upton Park."

Finn added that the first stage of building work was due to start on the south stand in May, involving a £10 million outlay. To meet it, the club would need to sell at least 11,000 bonds. Finn confirmed that the cost of issuing the prospectus and advertising the scheme had already dictated an expenditure of £1.3 million.

Short of abandoning the idea, failure to sell sufficient numbers by May would necessitate a large loan from the Bank of Scotland, the backers of the scheme. Peter Storrie, managing director of West Ham, has claimed that any such loan would leave no funds available for team development.

In the worst outcome, it could mean the West Ham side was stripped of its assets. This week, the club reportedly invited offers for the entire first-team squad: Stuart Slater is a £2 million target of Everton and Celtic.

Supporters appear divided as to whether the forward, who has been upset at being played in a wide rather than central position this season, should be sold. They are concerned that any profit would be used to write off the £1.3 million spent on promoting the bonds.

Even if the money were to be reinvested, West Ham's transfer dealings do not inspire confidence among their supporters. In recent years, Stewart Robson was bought for £610,000 and departed on a free transfer. Alan McKnight cost £300,000 and left for nothing, David Kelly was acquired for £600,000 and sold for £200,000, and Jimmy Quinn arrived for £300,000 but was sold for£30,000.On the plus side, Tony Cottee went for £2 million and the club is £250,000 up on four transfers involving Frank McAvennie.

Promoted last season, West Ham look to be heading back to the second division and missing the launch of the Premier League. Even their most loyal supporters — their average gate is 23,000 this season, the eighth best in the first division — are despairing over the decline of the "football academy" and becoming disillusioned with Billy Bonds, the manager, who, as a West Ham player, was an idol of the crowd.

Rapport said that the bond scheme, if not Bonds, was doomed and he hoped to hasten its demise with the launch of the Hammers Independent Supporters' Association, which holds its inaugural meeting on January 20. He has circulated a petition among supporters calling for the abolition of the bonds.

"Our main demand is the resignation of the board of directors," he said. "We need everyone to sign the petition against the bonds and to participate in peaceful protests before, during and after every home game."

Over 1,000 registered their discontent after the 1-1 FA Cup draw with non-League Farnborough last week and Rapport hoped "thousands" would do likewise today, thus halting what he termed "a heinous attempt to turn football into a middle-class sport and take it away from the people who have been its lifeblood but simply cannot afford bonds".

Injuries may force Ferguson's hand

Robson stands by to face Leeds in delayed cup-tie

BY IAN ROSS

BRYAN Robson, who was not expected to be available for first-team football for at least another ten days, may return to the Manchester United side for the delayed FA Cup third-round tie against Leeds United at Elland Road next Wednesday.

Robson, who celebrates his 35th birthday today, has been placed on stand-by by Alex Ferguson and will play should any of United's other midfield players be injured in today's game against Everton at Old Trafford.

The United manager said: "Robson trained with us today and took part in a game at the end of the session. The only trouble is, he has only managed 45 minutes of senior football since December 4. I would prefer to give him a reserve game first before calling him up but if we do run into problems against Everton I would have to change my plans. You always miss him because he gives us that extra something. However, I don't think that we miss him quite as much as we used to — that is the measure of a developing team."

As expected, Ferguson has named the side which defeated Leeds in the Rumbelows Cup in midweek which means that Irwin, who has now recovered from injury, will have to be content with a place among the substitutes.

Trevor Francis, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, yesterday conceded that the team which he will send out for tomorrow's televised game at Hillsborough will be of a "makeshift" nature.

Francis, who is already lacking the services of David Hirst — sidelined for five weeks by a thigh injury — will have to give six regular first team players fitness tests before he can select his team.

Warhurst, Pearson, Nilsson and Williams are all suffering the after-effects of a flu virus. Sheridan has a knee injury, Jemson a hamstring problem, and Harkes a troublesome Achilles. "We really do need to be at our strongest for a game like this, but that, sadly, will not be the case," Francis said.

Leeds, too, have their problems. Dorigo is ruled out with a twisted knee, and will be replaced by either Whitlow, Snodin or McClelland. Strachan has had several stitches inserted in a leg wound but will play. Batty is starting a two-match ban and will be replaced by Hodge.

The match marks Wilkinson's return to Wednesday, the club he left in October 1988. "If this game has been two years ago it would have been more emotional for me," he said. "Time does heal things and I never regretted joining Leeds. Having said that, leaving Wednesday was the hardest thing I have had to do in football."

WEEKEND TEAM NEWS

Arsenal v Aston Villa
Steve Froggatt, aged 18, a winger with only two minutes' League experience behind him is poised to make his full debut for Villa in place of Mark Blake. Arsenal, who aim to shrug off last week's FA Cup humiliation at Wrexham, are without the suspended Ian Wright and Andy Linighan, and injured Steve Bould and Anders Limpar. With Steve Staunton injured Bryan Small stays in the Villa side.

Chelsea v Tottenham
Paul Walsh is the only recognised forward in a Tottenham side without the injured Gary Lineker and Gordon Durie, once of Chelsea, that aims to avenge a 3-0 defeat at White Hart Lane in August. Paul Stewart or David Howells could revert to attack from midfield, while Ian Porterfield, the Chelsea manager, is without Tommy Boyd, Dave Beasant and Steve Clarke.

Coventry v QPR
Don Howe is in charge of Coventry for his first game since succeeding Terry Butcher as manager earlier this week. He selects from 14. QPR are expected to be unaltered.

C Palace v Man City
Manchester City are are without the injured Steve McMahon. Gary Megson deputises in an otherwise unchanged side. Palace expect Andy Thorn and Simon Rodger to recover from ankle injuries.

Liverpool v Luton
John Barnes, who returned after a five-month absence to score three goals against Crewe Alexandra in the FA Cup in midweek, makes his first League appearance since August for Liverpool. Ray Houghton is expected to pass a fitness test but with Jamie Redknapp injured, Gary Ablett and Ronny Rosenthal join the squad.

Man Utd v Everton
In hot pursuit of a League and Cup treble, Manchester United attempt to regain the first division leadership from Leeds United by retaining the side which won 3-1 at Elland Road in the Rumbelows Cup in midweek. Dennis Irwin is again a substitute. Pat Nevin coud be out of the Everton side with an injured groin.

Norwich v Oldham
The only 40-year-old in the first division, Willie Donachie, retains his place on the substitutes' bench for Oldham, Mike Milligan having failed to recover from an ankle injury.

Nottm F v Notts Co
Neil Warnock is a self-confessed admirer of the sophisticated football insisted upon by Brian Clough, his local rival. Lee Glover starts his first game for Forest since November in place of Nigel Clough, who begins the first suspension of his career. County must replace Paul Rideout.

Southampton v Sheff Utd
Ian Branfoot, the Southampton manager, knows he must win in order to silence the calls for his head from the terraces. Glenn Cockerill, the home captain, will return to the midfield should Stuart Gray fail a fitness test, while it is unlikely that Branfoot would dare to drop Matthew Le Tissier again. Sheffield are without the suspended Brian Gayle and injured Jamie Hoyland.

West Ham v Wimbledon
Wimbledon have won all their three League visits to Upton Park and Peter Withe, who is on a sticky wicket as their manager, could do with a fourth success. Paul Miller and Gary Elkins are fit for action, but Roger Joseph is injured and out of the defence. West Ham's defensive frailties could be eased by the return of Steve Potts from injury.

Tomorrow
Sheff Wed v Leeds Utd
Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, returns to Hillsborough for the first time since he left Wednesday for Elland Road in 1988. Today's visit to Trevor Francis's third-placed team could be simplified by the influenza virus afflicting the Wednesay team. Eight home players face fitness tests, but Wednesday are definitely without David Hirst. For Leeds, Tony Dorigo misses the Yorkshire derby with an ankle injury

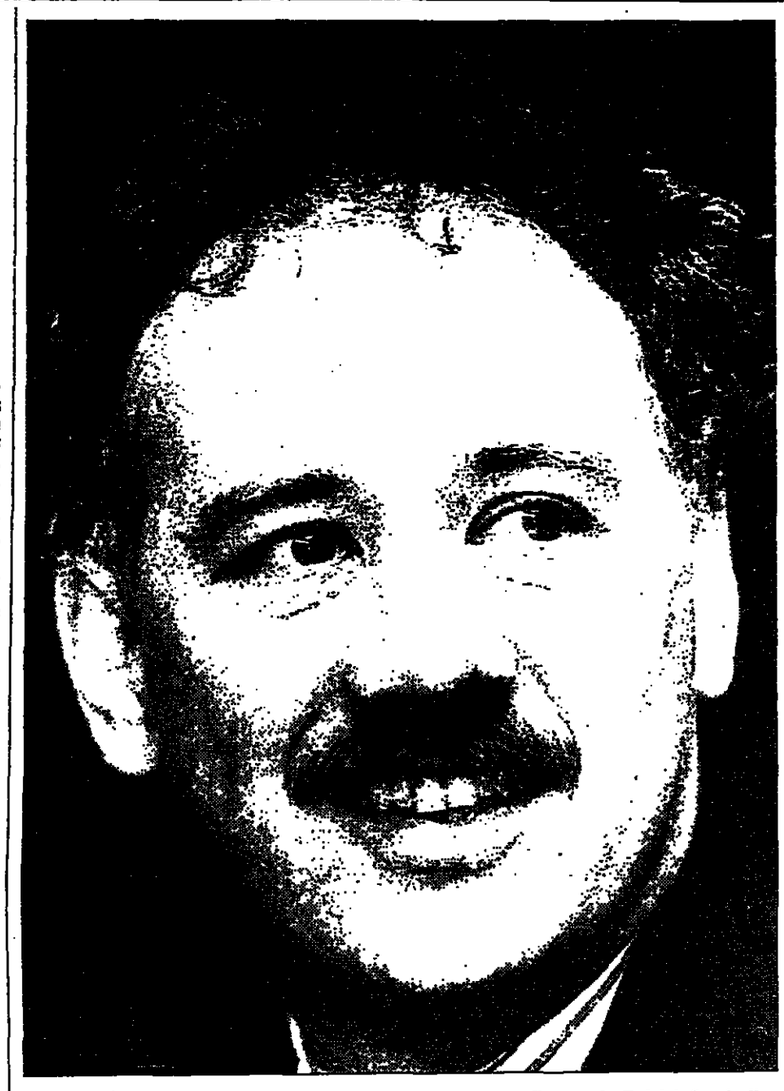
☐ *Compiled by Louise Taylor*

Rideout signs for Rangers

PAUL Rideout became the latest Englishman to tread the well-worn path to Glasgow yesterday when he joined Rangers for £500,000.

Rideout, the 27-year-old forward, signed a two-and-a-half year deal only four months after moving to Notts County from Southampton.

The deal was rushed through so that Rideout was available to face Hibernian if, as seemed likely, Mark Hateley was ruled out with a thigh injury.


In a league of his own: Parry could be the biggest influence in British football

Parry prepares for power

BY PETER BALL

TOMORROW morning, in the unlikely surroundings of an East Midlands hotel, Rick Parry could be officially confirmed as the most powerful man in English football. It is expected that, at long last, his appointment as chief executive of the new FA Premier League will finally be ratified by the constituent clubs.

It is not a description Parry, an amiable accountant who came to football as a management consultant, initially employed by the Football League, would welcome, but it is a hard one to resist.

Whether the Premier League finally decides on three directors or 25, with the chairman, Sir John Quinton, planning to spend only two hours a week on his duties, and the clubs meeting only four times a year, Parry will be the effective controlling influence in the League.

He appears well-equipped for the task. His skill in keeping the first division together over the last eight months, while at the same time keeping the clubs and the Football Association in harmony, must rank as one of the great achievements this century in British sport.

Even Parry admits that the weekly meetings of the 22 clubs in the planning stages was "a truly life-shortening experience", but he has emerged apparently unscathed.

Generally, he has proved a suitably flexible leader. He undoubtedly had the better hand to play, but it is tempting to wonder what the outcome would have been if he had been working for the Football League, rather than against it.

"He has a clear mind and is a good organiser," one first division club chairman remarked admiringly. "He is hard-working, and amiable. Perhaps he lacks a bit of forcefulness and he is inexperienced in football, but he is quite good at planting ideas for other people to pick up and good at picking up on other people's ideas as well."

But if he has so far played his hand impeccably, his problems may just be beginning, starting tomorrow with discussions over the proposed "golden share" for the FA in the new Premier League company.

That is likely to have a sticky passage both from some of the clubs, who think it gives away too much to the FA, and some FA councillors, who suspect that it gives them little more say in the Premier League than they already possess with the Football League.

That was not the object of their exercise, but if it goes through, even Parry will be hard pressed to disclaim the power that will be visibly in his hands.

Cameroon chase Africa Cup without Milla

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CAMEROON, whose joyous football was a feature of the 1990 World Cup, are preparing to light up another tournament, the African Nations Cup in Senegal, a biennial even starting tomorrow, for the top dozen teams on the continent.

The competition is attracting unprecedented attention from Europe, something which could be marked down almost exclusively to the feats of Roger Milla and his teammates in Italy. Rumours that Milla would be defying age to make another comeback have been widespread, though denied by the player himself, but the Cameroonians insist they can win the tournament without him.

They believe the squad is strong enough to emulate their 1988 victory, after managing to retain most of the players who reached the World Cup quarter-finals before losing to England.

The gifted forward, Francois Oman Biyik, who scored the winning goal against Argentina in the first match in Italy, has found the net consistently in France despite playing for struggling clubs.

Steven Tataw, the captain, is an inspirational playmaker, and he could be partnered by Benjamin Massing, best remembered from Italy for the scything tackle on Argentina's Claudio Caniggia, which earned him a red card.

But the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon face tough opposition in their bid for a third victory. The tournament has comprised eight teams on 11 of the last 12 occasions, but the expansion to 12 nations in four groups of three means virtually all the leading sides will be in Senegal. Similar in format to the World Cup, the tournament does not encourage positive play in the mini-leagues, with two of the three teams from each group going through to the quarter-final knock-out stages, where the real contest will begin.

Cameroon should qualify from their group against the fading Moroccan team, second round qualifiers in the 1986 World Cup, and Zaire, who were the best team in Africa in the early 1970s, but have never recovered from a 9-0 defeat by Yugoslavia in the 1974 World Cup.

Ghana, the winners of the 1991 under-17 World Cup, will be lifted by Abedi Pele, the brilliant Marseilles forward who is Africa's footballer of the year, and 17-year-old Nii Lamptey, who plays for Anderlecht, the Belgian champions. Zambia, who beat Italy 4-0 in the Seoul Olympics, with Nigeria and Egypt, will also call on several professionals who play for European sides.

Almost all the top nations rely on foreign-based playerssuch as these, attracted away in increasing numbers after the last World Cup. Indeed, the tournament has been brought forward from March to January to avoid European clubs hanging on to their players for crucial end-of-season matches.

African representation for the 1994 World Cup finals has been increased from two to three nations, and the finalists in Senegal will be keen to prove to the watching world they deserve it.

The tournament will be broadcast live by the satellite television company, Screensport. In addition, Channel 4 is making an hour-long documentary introduced by John Salako, the Crystal Palace who was born in Nigeria. This will be broadcast on January 26 and include highlights of that day's final.

GROUPS:A (based in Dakar): Senegal, Nigeria, Kenya. Group B (Dakar) Cameroon, Morocco, Zaire Group C (Ziguinshor). Algeria, Ivory Coast, Congo. Group D (Ziguinshor). Egypt, Ghana, Zambia

Jordan seeks perfection

JOE Jordan switches his attention from the top of the Italian League to the Scottish premier division title-chase today.

The Heart of Midlothian manager spent five days in Italy as a guest of his old club, AC Milan, studying training methods and watching a 5-0 destruction of Napoli. Now, he hopes that some of the Milan magic rubs off on his players when they tackle Aberdeen at Tynecastle.

"The facilities over there are quite incredible," Jordan said. "It is first class all the way, and if you had all the money in the world to do everything right, you would copy the Italian way. AC Milan go out to attack and basically that's the principle I apply to my team."

Like Milan, Heart of Midlothian are clear leaders. They meet an Aberdeen side which has won just once at Tynecastle since 1984, but Jordan is not complacent.

"Aberdeen have set their standards high and I won't underestimate them because of their league position," he said.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

TAIWAN: Masters championships: Men's singles: Quarter-finals: H Susanto (Indo) bt S Kukasemkij (Thai), 15-11, 15-6; F Termadi (Indo) bt Foo Kok keong (Malay), 4-15, 15-9, 15-10; A Wiranata (Indo) bt T Stuer-Lauridsen (Den), 9-15, 15-7, 15-1, P-E Hoyer-Larsen (Den) bt Kwan Yoke Meng (Malay), 15-6, 15-8. Women's singles: Quarter-finals: C Magnusson (Swe) bt S Jaroenarit (Thai), 2-11, 11-5, 12-9; M Aiko (Japan) bt L Cosne (Neth) bt J Muggeridge (Eng), 11-0, 12-9; J Semosa (Indo) bt D Julien (Can), 11-7, 11-5. Womens doubles: Quarter-finals: G Clark and J Bradbury (Eng) bt Lee Yi-Hsia and Lin Hui-Hsu (Taiwan), 15-11, 15-3. Mixed doubles: Quarter-finals: N Ponting and Clark (Eng) bt Lee Sang Bok and Shim Eun Jung (Kor), 15-6, 1-11; J Paulsen (Den) and G Gowers (Eng) bt Liu En-Hung and Kang Chia-I (Taiwan), 15-10, 15-8

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta Hawks 124, Dallas Mavericks 108, Charlotte Hornets 109, Sacramento Kings 96, Cleveland Cavaliers 99, Washington Bullets 92.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP: Semi-final groups: Group A: Virtus Bologna 96, Maccabi Elite (Isr) 83; Barcelona 99, Phonola Caserta (It) 77; Slobodna Dalmacija (Yug) 95, Cibona Zagreb 89 (in La Coruna). Group B: Philips Milan 88, Den Helder (Neth) 78; Aris Salonika 75, Partizan Belgrade 83; Mechelen 80, Joventut Badalona (Sp) 101; Bayer Leverkusen 81, Club Estudiantes Madrid 91.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Sydney: New South Wales 298-8 (T Bayliss 80, G Matthews 71 not out, M Taylor 52; G Rowell 4-76) v Queensland. Perth: Western Australian 200; Tasmania 28-1.

DARTS

FRIMLEY GREEN: World championship: Quarter-finals: M Gregory (Eng) bt R Harrington (Eng), 4-3; K Kenny (Eng) bt A Warriner (Eng), 4-0.

FOOTBALL

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Leeds United 0, Nottingham Forest 4.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools British Gas Trophy: Fifth round: North Sussex 2, Reading 2. English Schools Adidas Under 19 Trophy: Middlesex 5, Kent 1; Norfolk 3, Essex 1.
SPANISH CUP: First round, first leg: Valencia 2, Barcelona 0.

GOLF

CARLSBAD: Tournament of champions: First round (US unless stated): 65: B McCallister. 68: T Purtzer. 67: P Azinger. 68: B Faxon. 69: S Elkington (Aus), D Love. 70: M O'Meara, D Peoples. 71: K Perry, B Andrade, D Weibring. 72: L Wadkins, F Couples, R Cochran, I Baker-Finch (Aus).
CARLSBAD: Senior tournament of champions: First round (US unless stated): 70: C Rodriguez. 71: R Charles (NZ), L Trevino; A Geiberger; D Weaver. 72: B Crampton. 73: C Coody, D Douglass, H Henning.

TENNIS

MELBOURNE: Australian open championship: Qualifying: Men's singles: First round: J Bates (GB) bt D Danzi (Aus), 6-2, 6-2. Second round: Bates bt D Bosse (US), 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. Women's singles: First round: S Loosemore (GB) bt M Yokobori (Japan), 6-3, 6-2.
AUCKLAND: New Zealand open championships: Men's singles: Quarter-finals: J Yzaga (Peru) bt M Nerne (Ger), 6-3, 7-6; G Connell (Can) bt K Evernden (NZ), 6-4, 7-6; M Washington (US) bt A Cherkasov (CIS), 6-4, 6-2; M Zocke (Ger) bt A Volkov (CIS), 7-6, 6-2

Jeremy Bates: twin victories in Melbourne

LUGE

WINTERBERG, Germany: European championships: Men: Pairs (after two runs): 1, H-J Rafft and N Huber (Ger), 1min 22.31sec; 2, K Brugger and W Huber (It), 1.22.525; 3, S Krausse and J Behrendt (Ger), 1:22.532. Women: Singles (after two runs): 1, S Erdmann (Ger), 1.23.232; 2, S Otto (Ger), 1:23.239; 3, A Neuner (Austria), 1.23.251.

MOTOR RALLYING

PARIS TO CAPE TOWN RALLY: Fourteenth stage (Lobito to Namibe, Angola, 441km): Cars: 1, A Vatanen (Fin), Citroen, 28min 02sec penalties; 2, P Lartigue (Fr), Citroen, at 26sec; 3, E Weber (Ger), Mitsubishi, at 2min 26sec; 4, H Auriol (Fr), Mitsubishi, at 2:34; 5, S Servia (Sp), Lada, at 4.03; 6, B Waldegard (Swe), Citroen, at 4 36. Motorcycles: 1, E Orioli (It), Cagiva 1hr 37min 13sec; 2, R Mandelli (It), Gilera, at 6sec; 3, D Trolli (It), Cagiva, at 31. Overall: Cars: 1, Auriol, 18hr 00min 18sec penalties; 2, Weber, at 10min 50sec; 3, K Shinozuka (Japan), at 23.57; 4, Waldegard, at 1hr 29min 39sec; 5, Vatanen, at 2:40 29; 6, Lartigue, at 3.31.54 Motorcycles: 1, S Peterhansel (Fr), Yamaha, 47hr 58min 50sec; 2, D Laporte (US), Cagiva, at 30min 47sec; 3, J Arzamendi (Sp), Cagiva, at 41:33

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Preliminary round: Chorley 13, Salford 64

TABLE TENNIS

BIRMINGHAM: English Open: Men's singles: Second round: J Persson (Swe) bt A Silva (Por), 21-8, 21-2, 21-15. C Prean (Eng) bt F Jindrak (Austria), 21-19, 21-9, 21-14; Z Primorac (Croatia) bt D Douglas (Eng), 20-22, 22-20, 16-21, 21-17, 21-18. J Rosskopf (Ger) bt Ding Song (China), 21-13, 21-15, 18-21, 21-11. E Lindh (Swe) bt A Swierski (Pol), 21-15, 21-13, 21-14. Xie Chaoyin (China) bt N Chatelain (Fr), 21-18, 21-18, 16-21, 19-21, 22-20. A Cooke (Eng) bt S Andrew (Eng), 21-13, 21-16, 17-21, 21-19. J Gatien (Fr) bt P Sane (Bel), 21-16, 13-21, 21-16; Chen Hongyu (China) bt M Appelgren (Swe), 21-16, 19-21, 21-19, 21-18. L Kucharski (Pol) bt O Mammarek (Fr), 21-12, 17-21, 21-18, 21-13. S Fetzner (Ger) bt M Closset (Bel), 21-19, 21-15, 21-13. Chen Xinhua (Eng) bt T Von Scheele (Swe), 21-16, 17-21, 18-21, 21-9, 21-19. Yu Shantong (China) bt J Ng (Can), 21-7, 21-10, 23-21. Wang Yansheng (Hor) bt J Taylor (Eng), 21-6, 21-4, 19-21, 21-5; Yang Jianhua (Lux) bt D Eloi (Fr), 20-22, 21-17, 17-21, 21-9, 21-8; P Franz (Ger) bt J Waldner (Swe), 21-18, 21-18, 14-21, 21-19. Third round: Prean bt Persson (Swe), 24-22, 21-10, 18-21, 21-17. Rosskopf bt Primorac, 21-17, 21-14, 15-21, 22-20. Lindh bt Xie Chaoyin, 21-15, 21-12, 21-17. Gahen bt Cooke, 21-19, 21-13, 21-15. Chen Hongyu bt Kucharski, 18-21, 21-16, 11-21, 21-17, 21-13. Fetzner bt Chen Xinhua, 21-19, 18-21, 21-17, 21-9. Wang Yansheng bt Yu Shantong, 19-21, 21-12, 17-21, 21-10, 21-18. Franz bt Yang Jianhua, 24-22, 13-21, 21-19, 19-21, 21-5. Women's singles. Second round: Geng Lujuan (Can) bt A Holt (Eng), 21-9, 21-14, 21-8. A Svensson (Swe) bt Y Takahasi (Japan), 21-10, 21-11, 21-11. I Palina (CIS) bt K Toth (Hun), 21-14, 14-21, 22-20, 16-21, 21-15. O Nemes (Ger) bt C Ozer (Bel), 21-12, 21-13, 18-21, 21-14. O Badescu (Rom) bt V Wirth (Hun), 21-11, 21-6, 22-20. A Gordon (Eng) bt E Billen (Bel) 22-20, 21-14, 23-21. G Meinick (CIS) bt A Stich (Ger), 21-17, 21-14, 21-11. Wang Xiaoming (Fr) bt R Hatono (Japan), 21-19, 21-13, 21-14. M Hoshino (Japan) bt S Derren (Fr), 21-7, 21-17, 21-12. E Ecosu (Rom) wo C Corsini scr. M Svennson (Swe) bt E Billen (Bel) 21-8, 21-5, 21-17. E Timina (CIS) bt B Puschmann (Ger), 21-18, 21-17, 21-17. M Hooman (Neth) bt S Marling (Eng) 21-6, 21-6, 21-2. K Bogaerts (Bel) bt J Barton (Can), 21-11, 21-9, 16-21, 22-20. L Lomas (Eng) bt C Fahrenmaier (Ger), 21-16, 21-18, 21-12. C Batorfi (Hun) bt O Kravchenko (CIS), 16-21, 21-12, 21-15, 21-18. Third round: Geng Lujuan bt Svensson, 21-16, 21-13, 21-14. Nemes bt Palina, 13-21, 21-12, 21-8, 21-12. Badescu bt Gordon, 21-12, 21-13, 21-12. Wang Xiaoming bt Meinick, 21-18, 18-21, 21-17, 21-15. Hoshino bt Ecosu, 21-15, 21-13, 21-18. Svensson bt Timina, 21-18, 21-13, 15-21, 21-18. Hooman bt Bogaerts, 17-21, 21-8, 21-13, 21-13. Batorfi bt Lomas, 14-21, 21-13, 19-21, 21-15, 21-19

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston Bruins 5, Quebec Nordiques 4, Detroit Red Wings 9, Minnesota North Stars 4; New Jersey Devils 4, St Louis Blues 3, New York Islanders 2, Hartford Whalers 1, Philadelphia Flyers 5, Los Angeles Kings 2, Chicago Blackhawks 2, Toronto Maple Leafs 0

ICE SKATING

ORLANDO: United States championships: Pairs (final positions): 1, C Urbanski and R Marval, 2.5 factored placings; 2, J Meno and S Wendland, 3.0; 3, N Kuchiki and T Sand, 3.5. Ice dance (after compulsories and original dance): 1, A Sargent-Thomas and R Witherby, 1.2 factored placings; 2, R Mayer and P Breen, 2.4; 3, E Punsalan and J Swallow, 2.6

IN BRIEF

Andries is fit to box

Less than four months after losing his world crown, Dennis Andries will box Akim Tafer, of France, for the vacant European cruiserweight championship.

The European Boxing Union's deadline of January 22 for promoters to submit bids means the bout should go on in March or April.

Auriol keeps lead

Motor rallying: The Frenchman, Hubert Auriol, retained his overall lead when the Paris-Cape Town rally resumed after a two-day break.

Clark doubles up

Badminton: In only her second tournament since a serious knee injury, Gill Clark reached the semi-finals of the mixed and women's doubles of the Taiwan Masters.

Lewis a Royal

Basketball: Cleave Lewis, the former Oldham Celtics forward, has signed for Hemel Hempstead Royals in time for tonight's Carlsberg League game with Worthing.

Morbidelli stays

Motor racing: The Minardi Formula One team has renewed Gianni Morbidelli's contract for the 1992 season.

Hoellwarth upset

Ski jumping: The Austrian teenager, Martin Hoellwarth, gained a surprise win in the ninth individual event of the World Cup at Predazzo in Italy.

White competes

Yachting: A fleet of 65, including Reg White, the British boatbuilder, competes in the world championship in the Tornado catamaran class, starting near Fremantle tomorrow.

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THE TIMES
SPORT
SATURDAY JANUARY 11 1992

Chairman optimistic as FA Council meets

Premier League plan reaches day of decision

BY STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ENGLISH football will change course within the chambers of Lancaster Gate on Monday. The 89 members of the Football Association council are expected officially to sanction the formation of the Premier League next season — but their approval may be offered grudgingly and perhaps only in principle.

Sir John Quinton, the non-executive chairman of the Premier League, is optimistic that the meeting will indeed be conclusive. "I hope that the framework of the Premier League, and the way it is to be constituted in conjunction with the Football Association, is finally determined," he said yesterday.

Since his appointment to the Premier League, Sir John, aged 62, the chairman of Barclays Bank, has been struck by what he believes is the sense of goodwill which has been shared by all concerned. Contrary to the impression gained by the public, there had, he said, been "a great spirit of co-operation in the various working parties that have been acting during the last few months".

Yet it would not be surprising if the council, the majority of whom represent counties rather than League clubs, expressed deep reservations about the proposal which has been extensively revised since it was last discussed nine months ago. The vote was 78-4 in favour.

But then it was largely a dream, conceived by Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA. Most of his ideas, contained within his blueprint, have since been abandoned and the new, more practical concept is thought to have appreciably less then the fulsome support of the council. Kelly's principal aim was to assist the national team by limiting the programme of the leading clubs. That should eventually be realised. The Premier League, though initially of 22 clubs, will probably be reduced by one at the end of each of the next two seasons.

The ideal size, as almost everyone within the game privately agrees, is 18 clubs. But such a contraction, though it would be progressive and would bring England more into line with the rest of Europe, would be regarded as far too drastic a move.

Besides, the clubs would doubtless abuse the system by filling the spare time with lucrative and exhausting trips abroad. After all, most of them readily agree to enter the Zenith Data Systems Cup, a spurious event watched by scarcely anyone.

The Premier League, if it is to be respected, should be formed to promote quality and not quantity. Yet suspicions abound, particularly among those who claim that they have not been consulted, and even some council members are believed to mistrust the principles which are to be debated on Monday.

Gordon McKeag, the chairman of the League's shadow board and an FA councillor, described the new draft as being "as full of holes as a trellis fence. It does not provide the commercial interests which the council was looking for". Nor is his the only dissenting voice.

Threats have been posed by the Football League, which was initially more interested in court action rather than redeveloping its own future, and the Professional Footballers' Association, which suggested that the players might add a fresh and more menacing meaning to the phrase "striker". The opposition was, sadly, predictable.

Once the first division had belatedly been modernised and reduced from 22 clubs in 1987, it took four years for the ancient structure to be reinstated. As Sir John Quinton prepares to oversee the next cautious, albeit unprecedented, step into the future, it is to be hoped that his optimism is not misplaced.

Rick Parry profile, page 33

Graham refuses to panic

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

SEVEN days after Arsenal's humbling FA Cup defeat at Wrexham, of the fourth division, all eyes will be on George Graham's side as they aim to redeem themselves against Aston Villa at Highbury today.

The League champions are 16 points behind Manchester United, the first division leaders, but, outwardly at least, Graham remained unruffled yesterday. "I am not in the grip of a crisis and I will not panic," he said.

Reports suggest that the Arsenal manager has lost the loyalty of his players but Graham refuted them. "I have had no more problems with my players this season than I did last season, when we won the title," he said.

"The supporters know the score. They know what I have done in the past and my message to them is that the players who brought success can do it again.

"Some people said we were one-season wonders when we had a disappointing time after winning the championship the first time in 1989.

"But I didn't panic then and I can assure you I won't panic now. The good players we have got have not suddenly become bad ones."

Graham pointed out that Tony Adams and Steve Bould, whose central defensive partnership was influential in winning the title last season, have been restricted to just two games together this season. Yet he refused to use such injuries as an excuse.

"Many of the players have only known success here. This is a new experience for them. Not a nice one but, perhaps, an important one," he said.

"It is also a challenge for me personally and one from which you can grow as a person. We pass the Kleenex around every morning, and have a little cry about the Wrexham result, but we are working hard, applying ourselves and getting back to basics.

"I am not talking about the championship any more. My only aim is to see us put a winning run together."

Robson stands by, page 33

Sleight of hand: Prean serves in his fine run at the English Open yesterday

Prean gains prize scalp but then falls to old foe

BY RICHARD EATON

CARL Prean does not think of Jorgen Persson as a brilliant world champion whose presence alone can cost a point or two. Instead, the Swede is a team-mate he knows well enough to have a chance of beating — and the England No. 1 did exactly that yesterday by 24-22, 21-10, 18-21, 21-17 to reach the quarter-finals of the English Open, sponsored by Cadbury's Chocolate Break, at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham.

Although this will probably attract more attention than any of Prean's fine wins because it has come during this country's premier event, it was a workmanlike and efficient performance compared with his fluent counter-hitting victory against Persson in the World Team Cup in Barcelona seven weeks ago.

This time, Persson, who plays in the same Saarbrücken team in the German Bundesliga as Prean, made an untidy start, went two games and 14-11 down and then unleashed some dazzling forehand loops, as though throwing a switch.

The world champion advanced to 10-8 in the fourth game and looked more than capable of saving the match. Prean did extremely well to make another surge after that, serving and following up with magnificent composure and accuracy during the last three points.

Prean regarded those as even more crucial than usual. "The Swedes tend to play well in the fifth game and I didn't want that," he said. His excellent effort earned him another meeting with Jorg Rosskopf, the German No. 1, who beat him at the same stage of the last English Open. Once again, Prean found Rosskopf's left-handed looping too difficult to cope with and lost 21-13, 21-12, 23-21.

Prean's win over Persson completed the elimination of all three of the famous trio that won Sweden the world championship. With Jan-Ove Waldner, the former world champion, and Mikael Appelgren, the European champion, both losing the day before, the bottom half offered a likely route for Chen Xinhua, England's Yorkshire-based No. 5 seed, to progress to the final for the second successive time.

But Chen lost tiredly, by 21-19; 18-21, 21-17, 21-19 to the speedy Steffen Fetzner, his condition contrasting markedly with the fresher Prean's, who played only two matches of the recent China tour.

The other England No. 1, Lisa Lomas, was not far from another fine win against the European No. 1, Csilla Batorfi, losing 21-19 in the final game.

Results, page 33

SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

Still poles apart

SUDDENLY, newspapers are bursting with the "news" that women will soon catch up with men in the marathon. Ignore this nonsense. Physiological fact: women can only beat men at tougher disciplines than the marathon.

The astonishing rate of athletic improvement in the less attritional events shows only how short a time women have been doing them. There will not even be a women's triple jump in Barcelona, though we will probably have one at the 1996 Olympics.

Women's pole vault is an even newer discipline: and, yes, Britain is lagging behind. The British best comes from Claire Morrison, who has cleared 2.80 metres. However, Nicole Rieger, of Germany, has vaulted 3.90 metres, and 13 other Germans have beaten 3.00 metres.

Sergei Bubka need not worry yet: his record is 6.12 metres. But expect the women's record to go up like a rocket. The other emerging women's event is the hammer. Anyone, male or female, keen to try either event should attend a nine-week course beginning next weekend at Gosling sports park, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.

Spent force

FASCINATING fact: the world's most expensive footballer never plays football. No, this is not a Diego story: I am talking about Robert Prosinecki, all 12.5 million quids' worth of him. He won the European Cup for Red Star Belgrade last spring, went to Real Madrid for the aforementioned trifle, and has scarcely kicked a football since. He has just had his second knee operation. His muscles are made of glass, the Spaniards are saying: pure Bohemian crystal, the most expensive glass you can buy. He was supposed to play in the derby match against Atlético Madrid last weekend, but the poor fellow broke down in training. Real went down 2-0, and their hold on the top of league looks tenuous.

Over the top

THE well-known actor and quiz-show person, I. T. Botham, will soon be flying to New Zealand to try his hand at cricket, leaving a vacancy on *A Question of Sport*. His place will be filled by, among others, John Barnes. It goes against the grain to say harsh things about anyone called Barnes, but really — "To be asked to become a team captain is something to tell the grandchildren about," he said.

A jockey at odds with authority

ENGLISH jockeys are suspended for trying too hard or, occasionally, not trying hard enough. Now word reaches this column that one of New Zealand's leading jockeys has found some more original ways to enter the black books of the racing authorities.

Matthew Enright, who won the New Zealand Cup this season and stands fifth in the national jockeys' table, recently returned from a six-month suspension imposed after he was caught smoking marijuana.

At the Hastings race meeting in Hawkes Bay, on New Year's day, Enright again had his collar officially felt — just as he was collecting NZ$6,000 (about £2,000) from the jackpot payout.

New Zealand jockeys, unlike the British, are allowed to bet on their own rides, but not on other people's. Sadly for Enright, he rode only one of the six winners.

Rising stars

LAST week, I asked readers to suggest sporting oversights for the official honours list, a biannual puzzler. It rewards the win-double of sporting achievement and cleanliness of nose. The first oversight call was for Steve Davis, for being a thoroughly good chap. Then came a voice for Bunny Austin, who reached the Wimbledon singles final twice. Arise, then, Sir Steve and Sir Bunny, Knights of the Oversight. Any more suggestions?

Team spirit

OUR boys beat the French by one-tenth of a point to qualify for the Olympic team gymnastics competition. Now the world can learn why the French failed: 36 hours before the competition, the four-man team was found knocking it back like there was no tomorrow. They were probably seeing parallel bars. Three have just been suspended from all competition for a year, a fourth for six months. Our boys were smarter: they got stuck in *afterwards*.

Davis reaches his third final in row

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

STEVE Davis reached a final for the third tournament in succession, thanks to a solid 6-2 victory over Nigel Bond in the £325,000 Mercantile Credit Classic at Bournemouth's International Centre yesterday.

Davis, the world No. 2, attempting to increase his tally of Classic titles to six, had far too much tactical expertise and scoring power for Bond, one of the tournament's giant-killers.

Bond, eleventh in the provisional world rankings, was expected to provide Davis with a stern examination after wins over Jimmy White, the defending champion, and Mike Hallett, the No. 8 seed, in the preceeding rounds.

However, Davis, without a victory in a ranking tournament since the Rothmans Grand Prix of October 1989, was never in danger after a break of 44 in the third frame. A brown-to-black clearance in the fourth gave him a 3-1 lead at the interval.

Bond, a former English amateur champion, took the fifth frame with runs of 50 and 42, but Davis was in no mood to capitulate.

A run of 31, with the balls awkwardly placed, helped Davis regain a two-frame cushion at 4-2. He fired in a 79 — the highest break of the match — in the seventh and a superb 59 clearance enabled him to snatch the next frame on the black.

Davis plays Stephen Hendry, the world No. 1, or James Wattana, from Thailand, in today's best-of-17-frame final for a first prize of £60,000.

With £36,000 going to the runner-up, Davis is sure to pass the £200,000 prize-money barrier for the seventh consecutive season.

He said: "I'm delighted with my standard on what is a tough table. You can't take liberties on it, you've got to be on top form to flow and produce quality snooker. "There were times when I couldn't envisage performing to this standard again. I'd forgotten I could play this well. I am surprising myself."

RESULTS. Semi-finals: S Davis (Eng) bt N Bond (Eng), 6-2. Frame scores (Davis first) 68-31, 32-102, 65-16, 84-59, 33-96, 70-16, 88-0, 59-48

Muhammad Ali at 50, Saturday Review

Hick gets opening vote

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN AUCKLAND

ALEC Stewart's startling rise within the England side went into recession here last night when he lost his recently acquired role as opening batsman to Graeme Hick for today's one-day international against New Zealand.

Stewart reverted to No. 6, a more comfortable place to bat but a more vulnerable member of the side. He was still entrusted with the wicket-keeping gloves ahead of Jack Russell but this job, too, may only be on loan.

The man who sprang from fringe player to vice-captain opened the batting in the first two games of the tour, but scored only one and nought. In the third, a chest infection delayed his innings and Hick grasped the chance to go in first with a second century.

Explaining the decision to alter the expected order for today's match, Graham Gooch, the captain, said: "Fifty overs is a short game and you want to get your best players in early."

As he also said that the additional burden on Stewart of keeping wicket was not a factor in the change, this was hardly a ringing endorsement of his deputy. Gooch is properly keen to encourage competition and, as Stewart is now obliged to earn a middle-order place, against several other contenders, he cannot be thought secure.

It is still thought likely that Stewart will open in the first Test a week today, but if his own form, and Hick's, remain as they are, this too may be in doubt.

Russell can, anyway, be considered unfortunate to miss out today. His batting is in excellent shape, with half-centuries in both innings so far, and his superior wicketkeeping seems still less expendable than usual as England plan to use two spin bowlers in one-day cricket on the turgidly slow pitches here.

Hick: edges Stewart

Today's match is the first played by England, to be overseen by an independent referee. Peter Burge, of Australia, briefed the captains and managers of both teams yesterday and pointed out that, although his mandate is not to interfere with the umpiring, he has the power to reprimand a player, to fine him up to 75 per cent of his match fee or, as a last resort, to suspend him for a maximum of three games.

Burge, who played 42 Test matches for Australia between 1954 and 1965, said: "I suppose it is sad there is a need for a referee but the game is very different from my day. Players and umpires are now under enormous scrutiny."

One of Burge's functions is to ensure the minimum over-rate is adhered to and to administer the stiff new fines if it is not. This should not overtax him — his full-time job is as a consultant with a Queensland firm of debt-collectors.

ENGLAND: G A Gooch (captain), G A Hick, R A Smith, N H Fairbrother, A J Lamb, A J Stewart, D A Reeve, C C Lewis, D R Pringle, P A J DeFreitas, P C R Tufnell.
NEW ZEALAND (from): J G Wright, R T Latham, M D Crowe (captain), A H Jones, M J Greatbatch, C Z Harris, G R Larsen, I D S Smith, C L Cairns, D K Morrison, C Pringle, J T C Vaughan.
Umpires: S J Woodward, D B Cowie.

Company warns of action

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ONLY eight days before their opening match in the rugby union five nations' championship, England's players may be accused of a breach of contract should they play against Scotland wearing the traditional white shirt.

The latest round in the dispute between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and Cotton Traders, the leisure and sportswear manufacturers who supplied the union with its World Cup kit, emerged yesterday after Cotton Traders sent a letter to all members of the RFU committee, suggesting they take legal advice regarding their individual standing in the disagreement.

The company was refused an injunction last month, but the judge at the hearing questioned the legal "identity" of the RFU, should the matter of enforcement become an issue. Cotton Traders have filed papers seeking a further injunction requiring the RFU to adhere to the contract.

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